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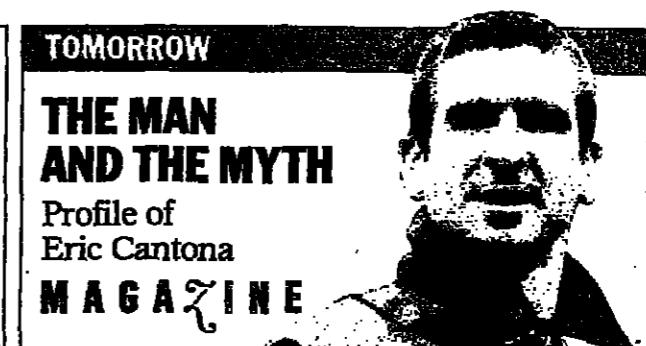
**MILAN SETS THE TRENDS**  
Iain R. Webb  
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## LET'S TAKE THAT MOUTHFUL AGAIN

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**TOMORROW**  
**THE MAN AND THE MYTH**  
Profile of  
Eric Cantona  
MAGAZINE

Israel mourns for its children shot dead by Jordanian on the anniversary of Dunblane

# Hill of Peace massacre of seven girls

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARAB-ISRAELI tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls and Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Five of the girls, all aged 12 and 13, died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief.

The girls had been on a school outing to Nahariya, a beauty spot in the spectacular Jordan Valley named the Hill of Peace because it is part of land handed back to Jordan when the 1994 peace treaty ended 46 years of war.

The soldier opened fire as the backs of the girls were turned towards his watchtower. One 14-year-old survivor, Hila Ivari, told of the moment when they were sprayed with automatic fire: "The girls screamed and cried and ran beneath bushes to hide. Many girls were hurt and bloody. I was hit in the leg."

The shock and anger of Israelis at the attack in which six other girls were wounded, was intensified by reports that the assailant, a 26-year-old army driver, was able to fire a full clip of ammunition before being overpowered by armed colleagues standing close by.

Oxford-educated Crown Prince Hassan, who visited the scene and spoke to one of the survivors, admitted that there had been "a breakdown of management" among the soldiers. He spoke movingly of his personal "shame and anguish" and pledged a full investigation in which "justice would be served." The Prince said that it was "a black day in the history of our country."

Despite the attempts of



possible cause by Israeli Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. He told Army radio: "Perhaps the conclusion is that the King must hold his tongue so that a soldier does not take his words to mean more than he intended."

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Amman, which received a flood of condolence calls from ordinary Jordanians, said that there must be a connection to the recent bitter public attacks on the attitudes and hardline policies of Mr Netanyahu. Last Sunday an outraged King Hussein slammed down the phone on the Israeli leader.

Last night before arriving back in Amman from Spain en route to a now postponed summit in Washington, Hussein defended himself. "It was fully in my responsibility to warn that we have come too far," the King told reporters. In a communiqué he spoke of his feelings of "shock, pain and anger" at the murders which many diplomats believe have pushed the Middle East peace process close to total collapse.

The King said that he never thought that his letter sent to Mr Netanyahu would be taken that way. He added that he felt that the peace for which he had worked for his whole life was now facing "a difficult moment."

The 61-year-old monarch, whose state of health is giving concern to officials in the current period of high Middle East tension said in an emotional condolence telephone call to Israel's President Weizman "that he considered those treacherous bullets to have been directed against him and his sons and daughters in their own home".

The King's warning about possible violence to be sparked by a massive new settlement at Har Homa in occupied east Jerusalem was cited as a

world statesmen, including President Clinton, to calm emotions gut reaction among many Israelis was to question the validity of the peace treaty. "Peace is not worth anything if these kinds of things happen", said Anna Ostrovsky, 13, one of the pupils at the orthodox Jewish school in the town of Beit Shemesh who was awaiting news of the dead. "I am very afraid."

At the school there were scenes reminiscent of the Dunblane massacre as chain-smoking Israeli parents clustered around the telephone, frantic for assurance that their daughters were not among the dead and wounded.

Ety Vahalani, one distraught mother, shouted into a cellular phone: "Ronit, it's mum. How are you? Talk to me. I am waiting for you."

The psychological effect of the massacre - by a man described by one survivor as "a bad guy with big eyes" - was much more explosive because it followed 48 hours after the publication of an outspoken letter from King Hussein to Mr Netanyahu saying that his policies were driving the region towards "an abyss of bloodshed and disaster".

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Hussein warning, page 15  
Leading article, page 21

## Labour plans to lift Armed Forces bar on homosexuals

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs.

In an interview in *The Pink Paper*, a journal for homosexuals, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, says: "We believe that servicemen and women should not be discharged on the basis that they are lesbian or gay."

An incoming Labour government will consult service chiefs on how to implement the change. "But the ban is unfair and it will go," he says.

The statement by Mr Straw has gone further than the pronouncements from David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary. Sources close to Dr Clark have made clear that Labour regards the ban as unfair and they would work towards a swift abolition.

Mr Straw's commitment comes on the day that the High Court accepted that the ban might be in breach of European Union law. The court agreed that Terry Perkins, who was dismissed from his post as a Navy medical officer, could apply for a judicial review.

The revelation comes as a survey by *The Times*, of the

## Anti-euro cash offer lures MPs

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO former Cabinet ministers joined a stampede of Tory MPs yesterday for donations from a millionaire businessman who has pledged financial support to candidates opposed to a single currency.

John Redwood, who challenged John Major for the Tory leadership, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster General to oppose the euro, were among the first in the queue yesterday. Two unnamed serving ministers are also reported to have expressed an interest along with Iain Duncan-Smith, the MP for Chingford, and a leading Eurosceptic.

Within 24 hours of the announcement of the £500,000 funding fund being set up by Paul Sykes, 53, one of Britain's 100 richest men, requests had been received from 28 Conservative associations. They are still pouring in. Mr Sykes hopes to get up to 150 candidates to support the cause.

The revelation comes as a survey by *The Times*, of the

Continued on page 2, col 1

## Britons flee Albania in joint rescue

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DIPLOMATIC sources said last night that 400 Westerners — 50 said to be British — have been evacuated from Albania in a joint operation between the British, American and Italian embassies.

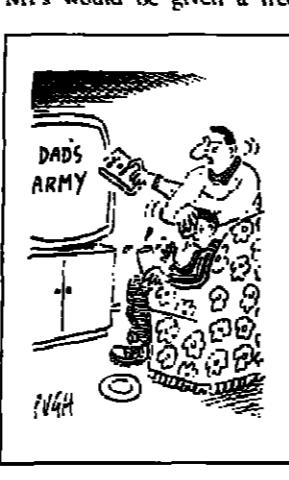
They were taken from Tirana to the rebel-held port of Durrës by minibus, and then to an Italian warship by helicopter, Italian sources said.

An RAF and Royal Navy rescue operation was on stand-by. Two destroyers, *HMS Exeter* and *HMS Birmingham*, on patrol in the Mediterranean, were ordered to steam closer to the Albanian coast, and three RAF Hercules transport aircraft took off from Lyneham in Wilshire to be ready for a rescue.

The Americans landed military helicopters in Tirana for an operation that "could take days", said a US official.

A British plan to use Tirana airport was abandoned as gunfire increased around the runways and all commercial flights were cancelled.

Berisha clings on, page 17  
Photograph, page 24



Court to rule, page 9



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## Billie-Jo arrest

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was last night re-arrested by detectives investigating her murder. Sian Jenkins, 39, was detained in custody overnight at Hastings police station, east Sussex. Billie-Jo, 13, was killed in the garden of the family home.

## Kohl caves in

Jubilant miners whistled and sounded bunting to celebrate a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years

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WEATHER  
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# The easy way to reach Hell: needed under the eye of the camel

If a camel could smile, it would smile like Reigate's Sir George Gardiner (Referendum Party - RP? Or RIP?) A dyspeptic countenance peeped round the generous bottom of the Chancellor at Treasury Questions yesterday. Whose were those fox-like eyes, that cameltoed grin in a floral tie? It was acid indigestion made flesh: Sir George.

Positioned behind the Government front bench (thus within camera-frame) Gardiner was (in media terms) "doughnutting". For dunking in your coffee, the dry Sir

George would not appeal to every taste. They could rename it "rusking".

Throughout Treasury Questions, the Prince of Eurosceptic Darkness remained silent, a thin smile playing on his leathery lips. It was evident as David Atkinson (Con, Bournemouth E) rose with a question about the single currency?

Every Parliament needs one techno-nerd, to represent the techno-nerds in the general population. Atkinson is that man. In the eighties, he was leading adjournment debates on space travel. Now he has

switched to hitch-hiking on the internet.

So why a Question on monetary union? What troubled him? Prospects for a single currency in 1999? No, Mr Atkinson was worried about prospects for computer systems in 1999. Were single currency computers "millennium-compliant"?

Kenneth Clarke, whose more urgent concern is whether Tory Government is millennium-compliant, made a none-too-convincing stab at taking Mr Atkinson's inquiry seriously. This, he implied,

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

was one of many questions about monetary union in 1999, not least whether it would happen.

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N), an Opposition mosquito, bit. Would Mr Clarke include Sir George in EU discussions?

As Mr Clarke parried, I watched the terror on the face of the Financial Secretary

on him. Sadly this did not happen. We could not test the hypothesis that Mr Clarke would not notice if he sat on someone.

Next, the Prime Minister arrived. Eurosceptic Norman Lamont had arrived, too. So had Hugh Dykes (C, Harrow E), a swivel-eyed, happy-clappy Europhile, Jacques Santer's vicar on Earth-Europhobe Sir George Gardner stayed.

Both Lamont and Gardner began leaping up to catch the Speaker's eye and question the Premier. So did Mr Dykes.

Three of John Major's favourite Tories!

In *No Exit*, Jean-Paul Sartre suggests, as a metaphor for Hades, a room containing a small number of people calculated to annoy each other, and no escape — ever.

For Mr Major yesterday, the Tory benches at PM's Questions were a sort of Sartrean Hell.

Still, when Sir George complained (to cries of "what about Goldsmith?") that too much was spent promoting the EU, Major counter-attacked crisply. He understood,

he said, there was "quite a lot of money available to both sides" of this argument.

As I left, the House Leader Tony Newton was promising the "Birds (Registration Charges) Bill — remaining stages".

Have you noticed how the Government always slips its most controversial proposals into routine business? What can this Bill mean? Do birds now have to register as birds — "sparrow male"? Or will Tory ministers have to hand in their little black books to the Chief Whip?

## Tories still have plenty to offer, says Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR will put the Conservative Party on election alert tomorrow when he tells constituency workers that the Government has plenty of radical proposals for a fifth successive term.

Days before he calls the general election for May 1, the Prime Minister will tell the Conservative Central Council that three big announcements in the last eight days — a shake-up of pensions, privatisation of social services and help for nursing home fees — are proof the Government has not lost its cutting edge or run out of steam.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will all make speeches in Bath that are expected to be bluntly electioneering in tone. Although Mr Major and other ministers declined to provide any hints yesterday, party sources expect him to announce the election on Tuesday or Thursday of next week, with parliamentary business being wound up shortly afterwards.

Much of today's session in Bath, attended by the party's senior constituency officials, will be held in private and the leadership is braced for angry criticism of ministers and MPs for the recent gaffes that have stifled attempts at recovery. The meeting takes place against the background of a new poll indicating that the gap with Labour is widening.

Opinion Research Business puts Labour support at 53 per cent, up two points from its last poll two months ago.

A worrying finding for strat-



Joan Bedford, sister of the murdered Dunblane teacher Gwen Mayor, pays tribute at a school in Manchester yesterday

Continued from page 1  
90 children stayed away, kept at home by their parents.

The world's media, which had besieged the town a year ago, respected the specific request of the parents and stayed away.

There were indications at Westminster yesterday that the business managers hope to have the Commons up before Easter, although the formal dissolution will come in April.

One casualty could be Michael Howard's crime Bill with its plan to impose minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug traffickers. Mr Howard wants to reverse a Lords defeat which he believes weakened the measure. After the election is called, business by convention only goes through by agreement between both front benches. Mr Howard will be certain to turn Labour's opposition into an election issue if the Bill falls.

After Major, page 19  
Matthew Parris and Philip Howard, page 20

## Silent prayers in sombre Dunblane

Primary school, Alloa, which is ten miles from Dunblane, demanding to be allowed to take their children home. Elsewhere in Scotland tributes were paid in churches, primary school, homes and offices. Many of the candles were lit by children. Church services of remembrance were held in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Inver-

ness Cathedral a single candle was lit. There was no service in Dunblane Cathedral but a steady trickle of visitors braved the rain and wind to offer silent prayers.

In a sombre House of Commons, the Prime Minister and Labour Leader Tony Blair put aside their political differences as they did a year ago when visiting the Dunblane to remember the dead. "We re-

member the little ones that died, we grieve with their parents and their friends and they will not be lost in the memory of this nation," Mr Blair said.

He told the Prime Minister: "Whatever our differences are, we are united again this time in sorrow and commemoration of those that died."

Mr Major said the Opposition Leader had spoken for everyone in the Commons and for millions beyond it.

Last night the Prime Minister and Mrs Major lit a candle in the window of 10 Downing Street to mark the anniversary.

## Dorrell's cost-cutting drive will save NHS £340m

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A LEANER, fitter NHS with fewer managers and less red tape was announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday.

A drive to reduce management costs launched a year ago will have saved £340 million by next March, Mr Dorrell said.

In an effort to pre-empt criticism from Labour on the cost of running the NHS market, Mr Dorrell declared that NHS management costs will have fallen by £186 million, or 10 per cent in real terms, in the two years to the end of 1997-98.

In addition, nearly £100 million would be saved by abolishing regional health authorities from April 1, and £50 million saved by March next year from streamlining the Department of Health.

Mr Dorrell said he had set a demanding cash reduction target of 5 per cent in 1996-97 for health authorities' costs and NHS trust management costs. In 1997-98 further cost reductions from health au-

thorities and trusts were expected to match the overall NHS efficiency target of 2.7 per cent.

NHS management costs, as defined by the Audit Commission, cover the salaries of managers, including clinical managers, and staff in areas such as finance, contracting and personnel.

Labour countered by releasing figures showing that £25 billion a year was being spent on the "NHS bureaucrats' pay bill". Salary costs of managers and administrative staff had doubled since 1989-90 when they stood at £1.2 billion, the party said. In current prices this meant an extra £894 million was being spent on management salaries.

Discriminating against the elderly is an appropriate way of rationing scarce NHS resources, a leading health economist has said.

Older people should be prepared to accept the inevitability of death and recognise that they have had a "good innings" and the young have a

greater right to medical care. Alan Williams of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York said:

"Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor Williams, 69, said that too much emphasis is placed on high-tech treatments to save life when what the elderly really need are unglamorous measures to improve mobility and their capacity to look after themselves."

"This attempt to wring the last drop of medical benefit out of the system, no matter what the human and material costs, is not the hallmark of a humane society. In each of our lives there has to come a time when we accept ... that a reasonable limit has to be set on the demands we can reasonably make on our fellow citizens in order to keep us going a bit longer," he said.

Professor Williams says

that benefits to young people should not take absolute priority over benefits to old people but they should be given more weight.

## Soldier is injured in IRA rocket attack

BY AUDREY MAGEE

A SOLDIER was being treated in a Belfast hospital yesterday after being injured in a suspected IRA attack on a security force patrol in the north of the city.

The 22-year-old, a member of the 2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, was injured in the arm when a homemade rocket was fired at his armoured Land-Rover. The force of the blast blew the armour off the side of the vehicle.

The device was fired at the joint Army and police patrol as it passed down Enniskillen Drive in the Ardoyne area. The rocket — containing 1½lb of Semtex — is believed to have been launched by IRA terrorists hiding in a house or alleyway at the side of the road. The entire area was sealed off yesterday and a number of people were arrested.

The attack comes a month after the murder of Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick.

## Teachers get 3% rise

Gillian Shepherd confirmed that teachers are to get a 3.3 per cent pay rise this year as recommended by their pay review body. The Education Secretary said in a written Commons reply that teachers will receive 2 per cent from April 1 with the remaining 1.7 per cent from December 1. The award was being made in two stages to accommodate costs within spending plans and because staging reflected the Government's view that settlements should be lower this year. Mrs Shepherd said:

## Rape law reform plan

Michael Howard will today announce plans to restrict the right of those on trial for rape to cross-question their alleged victims in court. The Home Secretary's move follows the ordeal of a woman who was cross-examined for six days by her attacker. Judges would be given the power to restrict the right of alleged rapists to conduct their own defence. They would be given discretion to order defendants in rape cases to be represented by barristers. The Government believes there is widespread support for the move.

## Rail sale fees criticised

The £40 million cost of hiring City firms to advise on the sale of train passenger franchises during the privatisation of British Rail was criticised yesterday by the all-party Public Accounts Committee. The watchdog said it was concerned that they had been appointed "without competition" and that no upper limit had been set for the cost of fees for the first franchises. Fees to the legal advisers, Linklaters & Paines, totalled £13 million, and those to the financial advisers, HSBC Samuel Montagu, £5.9 million.

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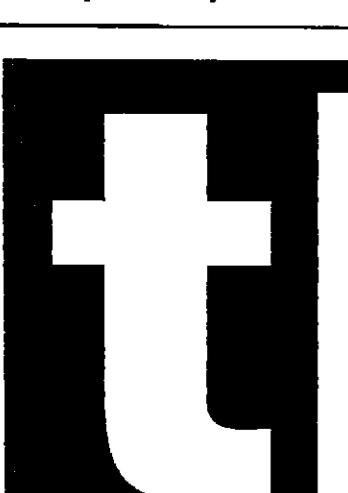
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'We eight have been portrayed as having identical opinions. That is absolute rubbish'

## We're not ashamed of our views, say TV dinner guests

BY ADRIAN LEE AND CAROL MIDGLEY

**GUESTS** at a dinner-party who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary portraying them as right-wing bigots defended their views yesterday and said they were astonished at the media rumpus.

Speaking at a Suffolk pub, George Coleman, Bill Vaudrey and Henry Erskine-Hill said they were not ashamed of the opinions they had expressed on blacks, homosexuality and unemployment because "the majority of people in this country think the same way".

Mr Erskine-Hill, 44, an old Esomar petrol station manager, denied that he was a racist. He had "one or two Asian friends", he said, and "found them delightful", but had had "one or two experiences with the black community which have not always run smoothly".

Brigid Wells-Furby and her husband Richard appeared to be having more regrets. "I am not extreme", protested Mrs Wells-Furby, who runs a restaurant. "I would describe myself as an old-fashioned Whig."

Eight friends agreed to be filmed for *The Dinner Party* to be screened on March 24. Some are quoted as saying that "queers" should not be al-



Suffolk village where dinners took place

arch and that her partner, Laurie Donaher, and their children were made to appear loud-mouthed bigots. The maker of that documentary, Paul Watson, also made *The Dinner Party*.

Ms Baker flew to Britain to defend herself after the series was shown. "I had been proud to be chosen with my family as representatives of Australian life to show Britain," she said. "Not for one moment did any of us think this was how they were going to see us. The editing was cruel and vicious. I was betrayed."

There were protests from some of the participants in *The Fishing*

lowed in the Army and that Africans are always taking handouts.

At The Railway in Framlingham yesterday, it emerged that *The Dinner Party*, filmed by Paul Watson, was in fact two dinner parties, lasting four hours each. The guests said that they had been asked to wear the same clothes and eat the same food and wine on each occasion — paid for by Channel 4. The film is due to be screened on March 24.

They said that they were given topics of discussion, including Europe, law and order, education, and John Major. Watson intervened if

they strayed from political issues, they said.

"He kept coming in and

saying, 'I've not heard enough about the dangers of new Labour,'" said Mr Vaudrey,

41, an unemployed businessman who answered a newspaper advertisement to appear in the programme and drew up the guest list. He and his wife, Judy, 39, hosted the dinner party at the farmhouse where her father, Tony, lives.

Mrs Vaudrey, a professional cook, prepared the food.

George Coleman, 50, the landlord of The Railway, said:

"We do feel a bit set up, but we will watch the film. I don't like being called intellectually im-

poverished, as we were described in the papers. We are deep thinkers."

The guests were paid £100 each to appear and Channel Four met the cost of all the food and drink. But money was not a motivation. "Lord, no — we did it for the experience," said Mr Vaudrey.

The eight had known each other socially for several years but had not previously dined together. The guest list was designed to represent the man in the street.

He said all eight had been "overwhelmed" by the fuss over their remarks. "The sad

isolate corner of Suffolk. We live rather mundane lives."

Mr Erskine-Hill believed

that the group "rightly or

wrongly spoke for a lot of

people" but fears that "we

could be made buffoons" when the tape was edited to the 53 minutes to be broadcast.

"I think they were looking

for us to trip ourselves up," Mr Erskine-Hill said. He had had the impression that the programme-makers wanted the guests to get drunk. The three men did not think they had drunk to excess as most of the guests had to get up early in the morning.

Despite their fears, the three

friends said yesterday morn-

ing that they had no plans to

try to stop the programme.

Accompanied by their lawyer,

Mr Erskine-Hill said: "I think

we were slightly naive in our

expectations." Mr Coleman,

said: "We are treating this as

trivia as it was supposed to be.

I hope when the film comes

out we will be seen in a

sympathetic light but I do feel

they [Channel 4] took advan-

tage of the situation."

He was particularly an-

gered by remarks by Mr Wat-

son that the group showed a

"poverty of intellect". Mr Er-

skine-Hill and Mr Vaudrey

rejected suggestions by Mr

Watson that they were "dyed-

in-the-wool" Tories.

"I have never voted Conser-

ative," said Mr Erskine-Hill.

"I usually vote down the

middle. Last time I voted for

the Natural Law Party."

Mr Coleman did confess to

thinking John Major "the best

thing since sliced bread" and

to being a life-long Conserva-

tive but Mr Vaudrey said: "I

have voted Conservative in the

past but I will be voting for the

Referendum Party."

All three denied that they

disliked homosexuals. They

were, Mr Coleman, said, "as

much a part of society as serial murderers".

Mrs Wells-Furby, 35, who

arrived at the pub later, said:

"I am not a racist, I am not a

beggar-basher, I am not a

homophobic. I did not say

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## Regrets linger long after documentary makers have cried 'Cut'

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

**DOCUMENTARY** history is often revealed by volunteers who have lived to regret revealing their lives to a fly-on-the-wall camera. Members of the public, seduced by the idea of fame, often complain later that they have been misrepresented and "stitched up".

Noeline Baker, a Sydney housewife who achieved notoriety in the BBC documentary *Sylvania Waters*, said that she was driven to the verge of suicide by the finished product. She complained that she had been portrayed as a materialistic mat-

ter.

Items on the bill for "professional charges" included:

"Attending Mr Bryant's home when he failed to attend work and . . .

communicating with the police, after considerable delays the police forced an entry and Mr Bryant's body was discovered, who appeared to have taken his own life by hanging. (partner time 9 hours) £1,350"

"Attending at the home of Mrs Brierley to advise her of his sudden death and receiving basic instructions from her to take whatever steps were necessary. £150"

"Attending upon the Coroner's Office for identification of the body, giving statement to the police and dealing with further matters. £300."

writing 172 letters and receiving 64.

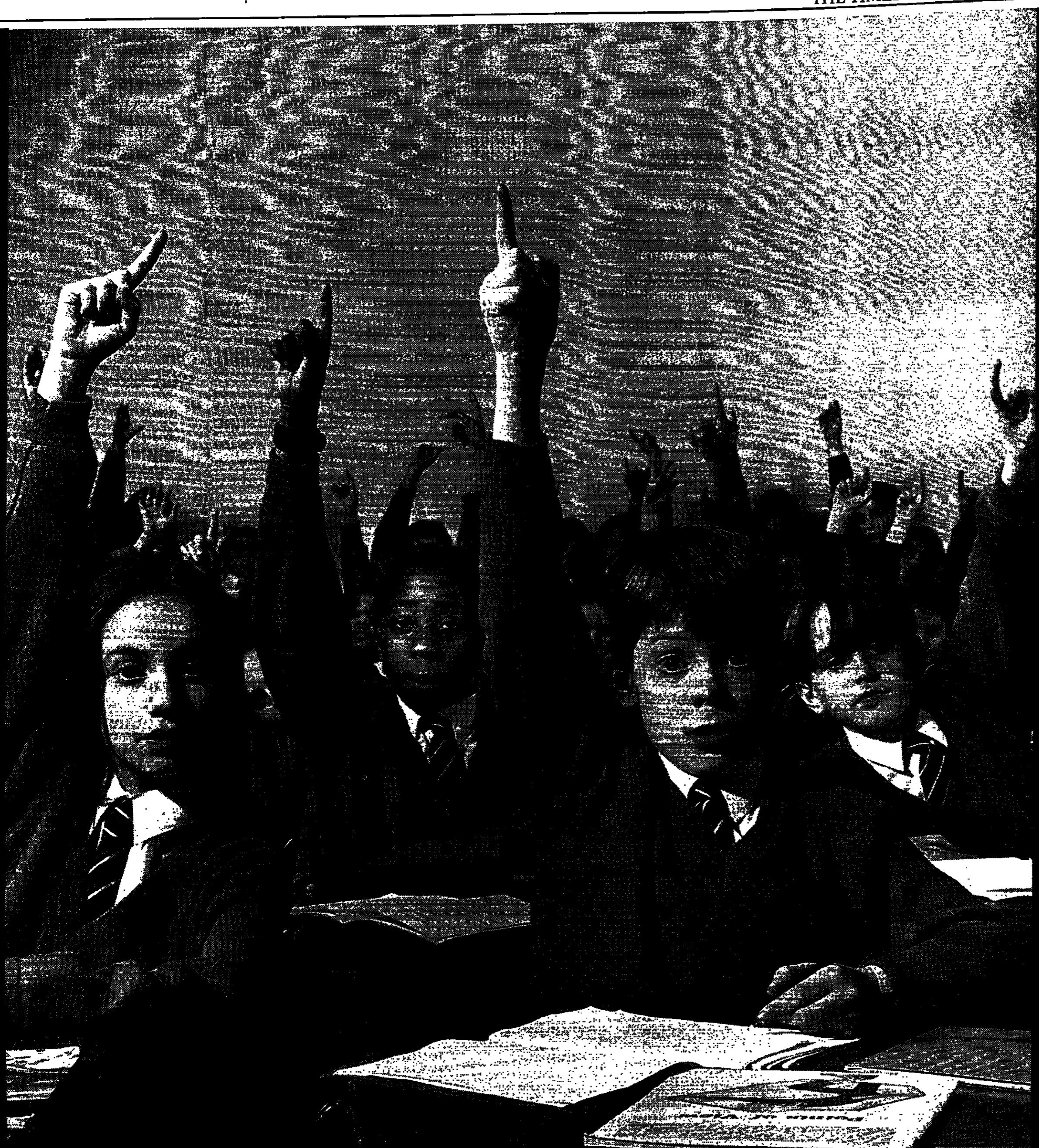
The bill from James Beauchamp solicitors, in Edgbaston, Birmingham, was reduced by three quarters after the dead man's family complained to the Office of Supervision of Solicitors, and

was further reduced to £150.

yesterday the firm agreed to waive the bill entirely "in view of the distress of Christopher's family". It rejected any suggestion of acting improperly.

However, the dead man's widowed mother, Irene Brierley, 80, said: "The bill was a terrible thing and I hope the

man who did it will feel embarrassed now it has come out. I was very, very upset that my son had died. He was a brilliant man and a brilliant solicitor."



# THE ANSWER IS SMALLER CLASSES.

As you can see, this class would benefit from some simple subtraction. Last year over a hundred thousand primary school children were in classes of thirty-six or more. To reduce class sizes we need more teachers. But instead recruitment is to be slashed by 17,800. School buildings are deteriorating. 94% of schools say their children have to share textbooks. Meanwhile 42% of 11 year olds are below the expected standard in maths. And half are below the expected standard in English. This government is running our education system into the ground. Does it really deserve another term?

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THE TIMES FRIDAY

Parents place

School  
girls w/  
car cra

By PAUL WILKINSON

PUPILS and staff at a state school were mourning and brightening up after a car had been evicted from the university.

Samantha Jocelyn Baker-Jennings, Freya, 11, and lunch-breaks evicted their car from the campus after hitting a post.

Yesterday former pupils at Hammar School, near Edinburgh, attended a special tribute to the car, which McAlister, 11, Claire's friend Juliet Jennings, 11, and her laid a posy at the crash site.

Mr McAlister, assembly, was among the history. We are in with the 1994 brighter and badder.

While 14-year-old sixth-former, 14, 1,600 pupils have come from nine new governors, "they now we all feel at the

The car was Samanthe, the

Cheers in court judges save the

TWO law lords were yesterday as they rejected the eviction of an alternative "rave" community and praised its members as being a "marvellous job" in turning a derelict farm

Seventy marchers Exodus Collective, from a nine-acre Longmeadow Farm at Chaiton, near Tiverton, squeezed into the County Court Appeal to hear the ruling by Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing pigs with them?" Lord Justice Hirst joked. "We're not going to have a livestock there this morning." That was a disappointment.

The founders of the five arrived at the farm last New Year's Eve four years ago and decided to restore the property, hold more raves and seek a sufficient lifestyle. However, possession order was issued to the Department of Environment

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THE CATS PRO

Parents place flowers at accident site as head pays tribute to 'four of our brightest and best students'

## School grieves for girls who died in car crash blaze

By PAUL WILKINSON

PUPILS and staff at a leading state school were yesterday mourning four of their brightest A-level students. Three were prefects and all had been expecting to go to university.

Samantha Brearley, 18, Jocelyn Bancroft, 17, Claire Jennings, 18, and Emma Freear, 18, died during a lunch-break excursion when their car veered off a country lane and burst into flames after hitting a tree.

Yesterday the 410 sixth-formers at Harrogate Grammar School, North Yorkshire, attended a special assembly in tribute to the girls led by Kevin McAleese, the headmaster. Claire's parents, Ivor and Juliet Jennings, and her brother laid a posy of spring flowers at the crash scene.

Mr McAleese said after the assembly: "The school is facing the greatest tragedy in its history. We are trying to cope with the loss of four of our brightest and best students."

While he spoke to the sixth-formers, the rest of the 1,600 pupils heard a statement from him read by their year tutors, "explaining the sorrow we all feel at the loss".

The car, driven by Samantha, had been a present



Claire Jennings: role in operatic society show

for her and her 17-year-old brother, Ben, also a sixth-former at the school, from their parents. Yesterday her mother, Janet, 48, said: "She was a good driver, very steady, and was not one to take risks. She did not drink and did not drive fast. I can only put it down to a freak occurrence which can't be explained. I feel so sorry for all the other mothers and fathers who have lost their daughters in this terrible accident; it is an awful day for everyone."

Samantha, a prefect described by staff as "a pleasure to teach", was studying English literature, French and theatre studies, and planned to go to Hull University to take triple honours in modern languages and theatre studies. Jocelyn was described by Mr McAleese as "a very bright, outgoing student" who was studying geography, mathematics and history and planned to read business studies at university. She was a prefect and a member of the Guides. Her mother, Lindsay Bancroft, said: "She had a bright future ahead of her. She was all sorted out on going to Humberstone University. She was a very clever girl and we and her younger sister are absolutely devastated."

Emma's father, Stephen Freear, 47, said: "Emma had everything to live for. She was doing A levels in theatre studies, history and English, and had won a place to do theatre and media studies at Glasgow University this September. She was looking forward to a career in theatre production. All four were the best of friends. They were planning a holiday in Tenerife when they had finished their exams this summer."

Emma, a prefect, helped younger children with reading difficulties. Claire, who planned to study mathematics and computing at university,

was taking A-level English, history and mathematics. Teachers said she was "cheerful, helpful, outgoing and conscientious". She was a member of the school symphonic wind band and its choral society, and had just taken part in Harrogate Operatic Society's production of *Me and My Girl*. She worked part-time in a private hospital. The girls were in a party of



Jocelyn Bancroft, Emma Freear and Samantha Brearley: they and Claire had planned a holiday together in Tenerife after summer exams

12 returning to school in three cars after spending lunchtime at a pub near Harrogate. Mr McAleese said the school would examine its policy on allowing pupils to bring cars to school but did not think it would be altered.

"Whenever a terrible accident occurs, any lessons to be learnt will be learnt. My first reaction is that this is a tragic accident which could have

happened in school hours or outside. We will keep everything under review."

"Some students who live on difficult bus routes come to school in cars with permission. They are allowed to leave the premises to go into town or to go further afield. As I understand it, a group had gone out because it was a nice, early spring day and they were coming back to school in

good time for afternoon registration. During the afternoon the friends in the two other cars became aware that the third car had not arrived. A group of sixth-formers who were free then retraced their route in order to see if they could find their friends and they came across the accident."

The intensity of the fire after the crash means that formal

## Cheers in court as judges save the rave

By IAN MURRAY

TWO law lords were cheered yesterday as they blocked the eviction of an alternative "rave" community and praised its members for doing a "marvellous job" in restoring a derelict farm.

Seventy members of the Exodus Collective, from the nine-acre Longmeadow Farm at Chatton, near Linton, squeezed into the Court of Appeal to hear the ruling by Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing their pigs with them?" Lord Justice Hirst joked. "We're not going to have a livestock attendance this morning? That's a great disappointment."

The founders of the collective arrived at the farm for a New Year's Eve rave party four years ago and decided to restore the property, hold more raves and seek a self-sufficient lifestyle. However, a possession order was granted to the Department of Trans-

## Royal plea for head of household

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother is advertising for a housekeeper at Clarence House. Her head of staff, Sir Alastair Aird, has placed a six-line advertisement in several local newspapers, requesting an "experienced housekeeper for a Royal House in London". Applicants are asked to write to the Comptroller at Clarence House.

The recruit will head the household and be responsible for overseeing the other housekeepers, monitoring cleaning and ordering domestic supplies. The live-in position is understood to carry a salary of £15,000.

Sir Alastair said that the vacancy had arisen with the impending retirement of Gwendoline Madden after 15 years. "The Queen Mother knows Mrs Madden well and is sad that she is leaving, but she has reached the age where she wants to retire."

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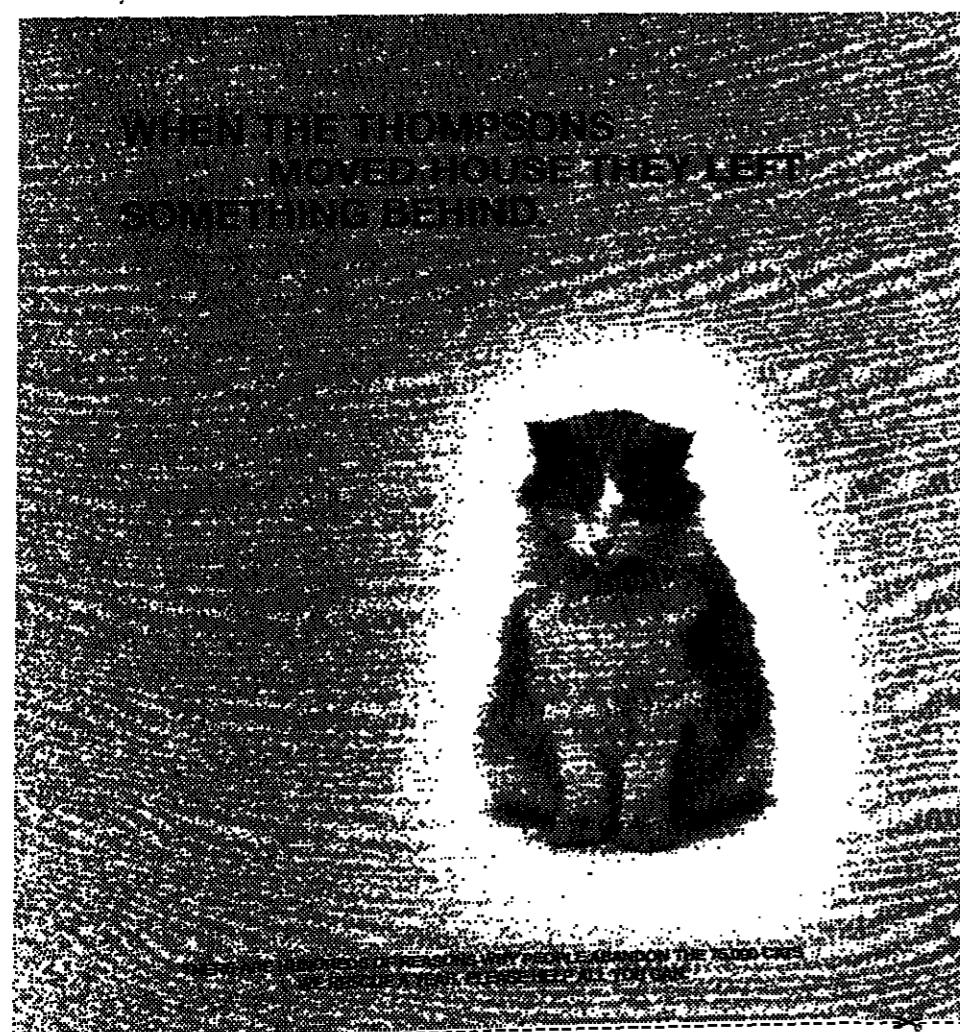
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IR LIFE

6 TO PRESS

# Blunt Carey under fire as week goes from bad to worse

BY DANIEL McGRORY



Runcie criticised for his "indiscretions"

GEORGE CAREY'S staff concede that this has been his worst week as Archbishop of Canterbury. Now he is about to provoke further controversy with televised comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church.

Producers of the documentary series *Archbishop* promise that Dr Carey "pulls no punches" in his views on disestablishment and on what he believes political leaders should do about poverty and the penal system.

Peter Williams, who produced and directed the *Meridian* series for ITV, said last night: "He is a strong man and is not afraid to state his views. We follow him to a rave service, similar to the criticised Nine O'Clock Service, and he is very forthright. He tackles disestablishment and political issues which I suppose might be screened during the election campaign."

Dr Carey, who is in Jerusa-

lem, was said to be dismayed yesterday when he saw the headline reaction to his criticism of his predecessor, Lord Runcie, but made it plain that he has no regrets about what he said.

His staff had seen the week in Jerusalem, at a meeting of Anglican primates, as a gentle reintroduction after his two-month sabbatical at a theological college in Virginia. By last



Dr Carey endured a sharp exchange with President Weizman yesterday over his remarks on the Middle East

ian sources admit they intend to manipulate as further international support for their cause.

The television programme containing his views on Lord Runcie is to be shown on *Meridian* on Sunday. A three-part series will be shown on the ITV network from Sunday.

April 6. The final programme tackles his views on disestablishment and his attendance at the rave service.

Andrew Purkis, the archbishop's secretary for public affairs, said last night: "He is not an attention-seeker, but he is a direct, uncomplicated man who is not naturally tremen-

dously diplomatic or guarded." He said Dr Carey had thought long and hard about whether to agree to let the television cameras follow him for a year.

Dr Carey made no apology yesterday for criticising Lord Runcie's "rather indiscreet disclosures" in his biog-

raphy, or for giving his views on Diana, Princess of Wales, and her marriage.

An aide at Lambeth Palace said: "Dr Carey has learnt to be ultra-cautious but somehow every remark collects headlines he did not intend. His problem is that he will never say 'No comment'."

**HRT poses health risk 'only in first year'**

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

WOMEN have an increased risk of blood clots in the legs during the first year of hormone replacement therapy, researchers have found.

The risk is highest, at between four and five times that of a non-HRT user, during the first six months, then drops to a thirdfold risk after six months. After 12 months the risk is no higher than that of a non-user.

The study looked at the records of 350,000 women in Britain, the largest investigation of the link between HRT and the risk of thromboembolism, which can be fatal. The findings show that between one and two cases of thromboembolism a year per 10,000 women could be attributable to HRT.

The study, by researchers from Global Pharmacop-epidemiology, Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Barcelona, and published in the *British Medical Journal*, found the type of treatment — high or low dose, pills or patches, with or without progestogens — made no difference to the risk.

## Saving anorexics from themselves

**MEDICAL BRIEFING**

A COURT has decreed that a 16-year-old anorexic patient should be compulsorily detained in hospital for life-saving treatment.

In the past, attempting suicide was a criminal offence. Now it is accepted that anorexia and attempted suicide are often symptoms of many psychiatric diseases.

Anorexic patients are in danger of killing themselves, perhaps not as dramatically as by taking an overdose, but just as surely. The patient in question, called C, had threatened to take her life many times and had recently been restrained from throwing herself off a balcony.

Death in a patient who has reduced her weight to 62 stone could occur very suddenly if she were to refuse all food, or if she were to take laxatives, diuretics (water pills), or both together. When Mr Justice Wall made his order, it seems that he was motivated by the thought that C was still a minor and that, as such, the State should step in to protect her life from the consequences of her own delusions.

Anorexic patients are pre-

dominantly, but not exclusively, white middle-class girls of above average intelligence who expect to follow a university career. Patients are often perfectionists who have an overdeveloped anxiety about their body image in particular and their health in general. They have a distorted sense of that image, so that while their family and friends see them as cachectic as concentration camp victims, they are convinced that they are still too fat.

The other characteristic of anorexic patients, of whom over 90 per cent are female, is that they have a fear of not being in control of their lives and their bodies. Mr Justice Wall has been attacked for removing the ability of C to control her own life by having her incarcerated in hospital, but if he had left her at home there might well have been no life to control. The axiom is that anorexia is a potentially lethal disease and that its progress may be unremitting until death.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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# McAliskey to keep baby with her in jail for 9 months

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service moved yesterday to defuse the mounting controversy over Roisin McAliskey, the pregnant bombing suspect, by announcing that she will be allowed to keep her baby with her in jail.

Miss McAliskey, 25, who is seven months pregnant, is to be given a place in the mother and baby unit at Holloway prison after the birth of her child. She will be allowed to join other pregnant women in the jail's antenatal classes. Miss McAliskey, the daughter of Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP Bernadette Devlin, is also to be allowed to attend Mass at the prison chapel.

She will give birth at an outside hospital and will not be shackled during labour.

Yesterday's decision was taken after a case conference at Holloway involving probation officers, social workers and prison staff. The Prison Service wants to avoid the case becoming a cause célèbre for the republican movement during the general election. Miss McAliskey is being held in the

jail awaiting extradition to Germany on charges of attempted murder and possessing explosives.

Alan Walker, the director of operations (south) in the Prison Service, said last night: "While prison can never be the ideal place for a baby, the mother and baby unit offers a reasonably relaxed regime geared to helping the emotional, physical and all-round development of the child, as well as teaching parenting skills to new mothers."

Miss McAliskey will be able to keep her baby with her in the unit for nine months. She

'Homosexual orientation is a reality that the law must recognise and adjust to,' says judge

## European court asked to rule on gays in Forces

BY RICHARD DUKE



CAMPAIGNERS were confident yesterday of ending the Armed Forces ban on homosexuals after a High Court judge agreed to refer the case of a sacked Navy worker to the European Court of Justice.

The Government could face a multimillion-pound compensation bill if the Luxembourg court rules that the blanket ban breaks European laws on equal treatment. Thirty other cases are poised to go ahead if Terry Perkins, 28, is victorious. It is estimated that 2,000 men and women have been dismissed by the Armed Forces over the past 20 years because of their homosexuality.

The judge yesterday gave strong support to the case of Mr Perkins, who was discharged in 1995 despite an exemplary career as a leading medical assistant. Mr Justice Lightman said: "Homosexual orientation is a reality today which the law must recognise and adjust to." He added: "There must be a real prospect that the European court will take the courageous step to extend protection to those of homosexual orientation."

The judge made his decision in the light of a recent European judgment giving transsexuals the same protection as

other men and women from discrimination and unfair treatment at work. Lawyers for Mr Perkins said that, if the directive applied to people who were undergoing, or had undergone, a change of sex, then it must also apply to homosexuals.

Stephen Gross, solicitor for Mr Perkins, said: "I would regard this as another step towards the death of the Armed Services' ban on gays and lesbians serving their country."

After the hearing Duncan Lustig-Prean, chairman of Rank Outsiders, which campaigns on behalf of homosexual servicemen and women, said the judge had given a very firm steer as to what he

thinks the European court will say. Campaigners said that victory at the European court could land the Ministry of Defence with a compensation bill far greater than the £60 million paid to pregnant women whose dismissal from the Services broke European laws.

Mr Perkins, now a computer consultant in Nottingham, joined the Navy in February 1991 and, during training, was twice awarded prizes for best student. After serving at sea, he trained with the Royal Marines and gained early promotion. Two months before his discharge he was awarded a certificate for exceptional service.

Mr Justice Lightman said there were three main questions for the European court to consider:

- whether the wording of the equal treatment directive, that there should be "no discrimination, whatsoever on the grounds of sex either directly or indirectly by reference in particular to marital or family status", could be interpreted as including discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation;
- whether the blanket policy adopted by the Ministry of Defence could be justified by a section of the directive that gives member states the right

to exclude occupational activities where the sex of the worker is a determining factor;

- whether the Armed Forces of a member state were excluded under a section of the European treaty relating to steps necessary for the maintenance of peace and international security;
- whether the blanket policy was discriminatory.

The judge said: "It is scarcely possible to limit the application of the directive to gender discrimination." The prospects of the European court upholding Mr Perkins's argu-

ment "must be significant", he said. "If transsexuals, even before and without any gender reassignment operation, are entitled to protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, it is difficult to see how such protection can be withheld from those of homosexual orientation generally."

The MoD spokesman said that the ministry continued to believe that the European equal treatment directive was concerned with gender-based discrimination, had nothing to do with sexual orientation and did not affect binding decisions of the British courts upholding the Government's right to enforce the ban. The ministry also argues that the directive cannot be applied to homosexuals in the Services because the Armed Forces are exempt under EU law.

An MoD spokesman said that the ministry continued to believe that the European equal treatment directive was concerned with gender-based discrimination, had nothing to do with sexual orientation and did not affect binding decisions of the European Court of Justice.

Mr Perkins, who is abroad at present, said: "I think we will win. We are part of Europe and we have got to follow example to be part of Europe." A ruling is expected in about 18 months.



Duncan Lustig-Prean, left, and Tremaine Cornish, of the lobby group Rank Outsiders, at the High Court yesterday

## Law Commission complains of delay in justice reforms

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Commission accused the Government yesterday of wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the implementation of law reforms.

Dame Mary Arden, the High Court judge who chairs the commission, which acts as Parliament's watchdog on law reform, said that the commission had published 20 reports since 1981 which were awaiting implementation. Last year it called for urgent implementation of six reports, but the Government had acted on only one of them. "The public do not obtain the benefit of our

work until it is implemented," Dame Mary said in an open letter to the Lord Chancellor in the commission's annual report for 1996.

One of the reports ignored was that on conspiracy to defraud, published in 1994, noting a defect in the law. In 1996 the law lords ruled that mortgage fraud was not covered by the law on theft and, as a result, at least 11 prosecutions for mortgage fraud were quashed and others not brought, she said. "Delayed implementation of the recommendation for a very small, but critical, change in the law meant that many mortgage frauds were not prosecuted."

Another unimplemented report,

that on offences against the person, widely welcomed when published in 1993, would modernise and rationalise an area of the criminal law in constant use, Dame Mary said. "Yet this remains neither accepted, rejected, nor implemented – a public asset from which the public is not getting any benefit. The rapidly changing social environment makes major overhaul of whole areas of law desirable or necessary."

Stephen Silber, QC, the commissioner in charge of criminal law, said that as a result of non-implementation, the law in this field – which covered grievous bodily harm, unlawful wounding and offences such

as assault – was unclear. Much argument and time had been wasted over what the law meant, he said.

The classic example is stalking. There had to be a number of cases brought before it could be decided that stalking came within the law [on assaults]. If our proposals had been implemented, everyone would have known that stalking, in appropriate circumstances, was a criminal offence and people who have not been prosecuted would have been."

Dame Mary called for a new "fast track" method of handling Law Commission Bills. Some progress had been made with the introduction of a procedure in the Lords enabling

certain measures to be handled outside the chamber.

The commission's report acknowledges that eight of its recommendations were enacted in 1996, bringing "beneficial changes in the law on divorce, damages for personal injury, criminal law, trust law and property law". Recommendations on the abolition of binding over and on the revision of laws on drunkenness and on involuntary manslaughter and offences against the person should be implemented, it says.

□ *Working for Better Law* (Law Commission 244, HMSO; £11.30).

Leading article, page 21



Dame Mary: said public had not felt benefits

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PAGE 10 OF THE COMET PRICE PROMISE



accused  
nail over  
vouchers

Residents fear 'our own little Alcatraz' will scare away tourists and potential investors

## Emergency prison ship sails in to a storm of protest

By GLEN OWEN

THE shadow of Victorian England fell over Portland Harbour yesterday when the prison ship *Weare* arrived at the end of its voyage across the Atlantic.

Not since the last century have criminals been housed in "hulks" moored off the coast of Britain. Nor should they be now, according to many of the local people who turned out to watch the 480-berth, five-storey floating prison being towed into dock on the Isle of Portland. "It should be towed back out to sea and scrapped," said Nigel Copsey, of the campaign against the ship.

His view is shared by Weymouth and Portland council chairman Jim Churchhouse, chairman of the planning committee, said they would be contesting the siting at a Department of Environment hearing on March 20. He believes that the area will become "the Devil's Island of Britain, scaring away tourists and investors". The English Tourist Board says that such a floating construction will despoil "a stunning geographical location".

Her Majesty's Prison *Weare*, named after a local river, was latterly The Resolution, a drug rehabilitation

centre on the Hudson River in New York. Its £6 million annual running cost was deemed to be too expensive and it was abandoned in 1992. The Americans were prepared to sell it for scrap at £300,000 before the Prison Service stepped in with a £3.5 million offer.

HMP *Weare* is the length of a football pitch and as high as four double-decker buses. It is fitted with a library, chapel, mosque, squash courts and swimming pools. Inmates will be housed in a series of single

and double metal boxes. As it passed the island breakwaters, quarried by 19th-century prisoners, the ship was accompanied by a flotilla of press and police launches.

Stephen Bradley, a helicopter mechanic at Portland Island's naval air station, called it "our own little Alcatraz". He said he would prefer to see it back in the Falkland Islands, where it housed workers building the island's airport after the conflict with Argentina. "This is a very busy place in the summer. The first thing tourists will see when they come here is a great big prison ship," he said.

At the Aquasport hotel overlooking the harbour, Maureen Pinion, one of the cooks, said Portland Island was fast becoming the prison capital of England. "We already have The Verne prison and a young offenders' institution. Whenever prisoners go walkabout the roadblocks go up. At this rate we will need passports to move around our own island." She pointed out that the category C inmates would lift the island's prison population to 1,500.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, has emphasised that the ship will be needed

only for the next three years, during which time more accommodation will be built for the country's rapidly rising prison population.

The Government is building blocks with space for 2,000 inmates in the grounds of existing jails, has bought units used by Norwegian oil workers to house hundreds more, and is refurbishing wings in five Victorian prisons. Next

year, Parc prison at Bridgend, South Wales, and Altcourse in Liverpool will open, providing 1,600 places. A further three jails are planned for Birmingham and Salford, and there will be another 800-cell facility at an as-yet unknown site in Essex.

Although there have been no hulks in Britain since

Victorian times, immigration

detainees were held on board the *Earl William*, a Sealink ferry, in 1987. It was moored off Harwich, in Essex, but went adrift during a hurricane. In the early 1970s, detainees and internees were held on HMS *Maidstone* in Belfast Harbour. Eight of them staged a dramatic escape, swimming ashore coated in lard.

Not everyone watching

Police to examine council's spending

By IAN MURRAY

THE fraud squad has been called in by a district auditor to investigate suspected financial irregularities at a borough council.

South Yorkshire Police confirmed yesterday that commercial branch officers were analysing Doncaster council documents handed to them by Gordon Sutton, the auditor. "It is too early to say whether there is any evidence of any criminal offence having been committed," a spokeswoman said. "We are not willing to discuss the nature or scope of the inquiry at this stage."

Mr Sutton said that the decision to call in the police had resulted from matters which had emerged since he issued a management report last month. That report disclosed that members and officers of the Labour-controlled council had been on first-class trips to various countries. Mr Sutton had found that there were "working lunches" at £50 a head, where most of the bill was for alcohol. He told a meeting with leading members: "The level of alcohol consumed at these lunches makes it unlikely that those attending them could do any work in the afternoon."

The leader of the council, Peter Welsh, and his deputy, Ray Stockhill, have since resigned and been replaced by Malcolm Glover and Colin Wedd. The new leadership is setting up a committee to control spending and has drawn up stringent limits on expenses.



Her Majesty's Prison *Weare* arriving yesterday in Portland Harbour, where it will be needed for three years

## Court ruling on book prices closes a publishing chapter

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE suspended 96-year-old Net Book Agreement was finally killed off yesterday, making it unlawful for publishers to fix the retail price of books. An order scrapping it was handed down by the Restrictive Practices Court after John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, argued that it was against the public interest.

The agreement had been ignored since September 1995 as large publishers withdrew their support and bookstore chains started to discount titles. The Publishers' Association, responsible for administering it, withdrew its opposition to the agreement's demise.

John Calder, the independent publisher, and Jenny Glazier, from the National Acquisitions Group, tried a last-ditch fight to save it. Mr Calder said after judgment was handed down by Mr

Justice Ferris: "We are disappointed. This will be of great concern to the European publishing community. We shall see if we can get the financial support necessary to launch an appeal."

Resistance to the scrapping had also come from the playwright Tom Stoppard and the literary editor Auberon Waugh, who both said that the nation's literacy had been threatened by a bestseller culture since the suspension of the agreement.

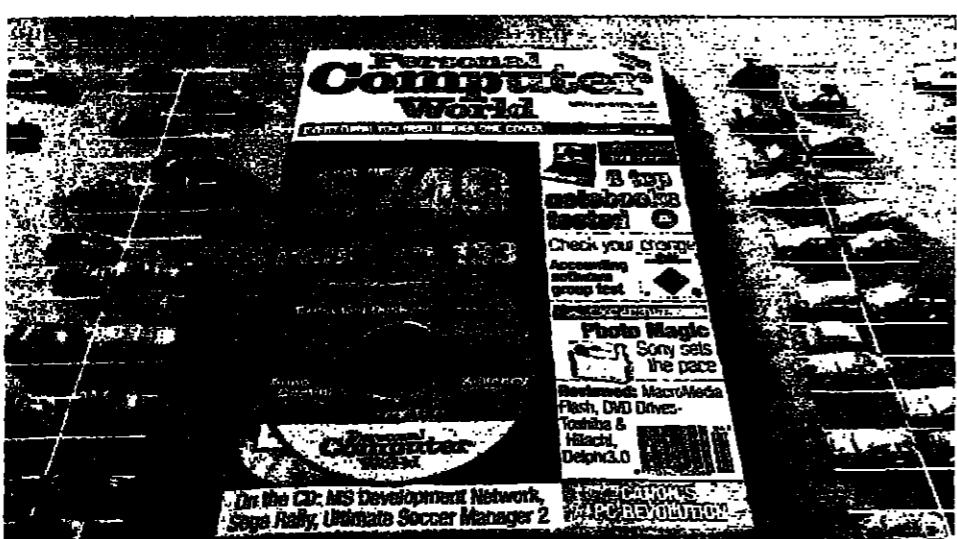
Mr Waugh said after the hearing: "What an extraordinary interpretation of the 'public interest' to suppose that anything that results in the disappearance of serious booksellers is to anybody's advantage. We can see from the example of the United States, where there's never been a net book agreement, that serious publishing — outside the strictly academic

— is almost non-existent. The reading habit has been lost. Nothing but trash prevails."

The court agreed with Mr Bridgeman that there had been a change in circumstances since the 1960s, when it had ruled that the agreement was not against the public interest. Mr Bridgeman said later: "Modern production and distribution methods have removed the need for a price-fixing agreement. The agreement was voluntarily dismantled by the industry two years ago and none of the alarmist predictions about the demise of specialist bookshops have yet come about."

Mr Bridgeman had argued in court that the agreement prevented booksellers from selling titles in popular demand at lower prices and from disposing of slow-moving stocks cheaply to avoid tying up capital.

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# Jubilant miners acclaim job deal as Kohl caves in

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GESENKIRCHEN

TIRED but jubilant miners yesterday whistled and sounded hooters to celebrate a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years.

"We are the people!" chanted the pitworkers, their overalls streaked with mud after a night spent in tents. There seemed no doubt in their minds that they had scored a considerable victory. Other miners mounted high-powered bikes and roared in a triumphant, noisy cavalcade through the centre of Bonn.

In Berlin, thousands of construction workers protested for the fourth consecutive day in Berlin against chronic unemployment in their sector and so-called wage-dumping by foreign firms.

The nature of yesterday's compromise shows yet again the great gulf between the Chancellor's brand of Christian Democracy and the radical Toryism of Margaret Thatcher, the last West European leader to win an open confrontation with miners' unions. The Chancellor's original plan, crafted together with the Free Democrats, his more zealous reformist part-

ner in the government coalition, was to cut subsidies to £1.4 billion a year by 2005. Each coalminer is subsidised now to the tune of £50,000 a year. Under the plan ten pits were to be closed and 50,000 miners were to be made redundant.

Now the pit closures will be more evenly spread, coming at the rate of one a year until 2005. About 26,000 jobs will disappear between now and 2000 but the workers will be offered early retirement, voluntary redundancy packages and elaborate retraining schemes that will keep them off the dole.

Another 20,000 will be eased out of the pits in the five years that follow. Government has found about £300 million in extra financial help over the next three years to ensure that the miners from the Ruhr and Saar regions do not add to the unemployment figures; the coalmining region of North Rhine Westphalia is also chipping in.

There were worried faces among the revellers in the Hugo pit in Gelsenkirchen yesterday. "Most of us here are young," said Klaus Prendel, 23. "Even if my job is safe until I'm 30 — what then? I can't retire." Some com-



Pit workers in Cologne greet the announcement of an agreement to soften the impact of cutting subsidies to the coal industry. Only one mine will close each year until 2005

## Bonn among last to subsidise coal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE decision by Germany to maintain support for its coal industry keeps alive one of the last government subsidies offered to coal.

Apart from China, which is thought to subsidise mining heavily, Europe is the only region where government cash is offered to coal producers. And within Europe the only other subsidies are offered by Spain and Poland although there is a small amount of support still operating in the UK through government-enforced contracts with the electricity generators which expire in 1998.

Elsewhere large coal producing countries such as Australia, the United States, Indonesia and South Africa mine coal at relatively low cost and export to Europe and other destinations despite freight costs. The price of coal depends on its export destination and on the quality and type of coal needed. Generally the price of coal produced overseas and shipped into Europe hovers around the \$40 (£25) a tonne mark.

According to McCloskey Coal Information Services, one of the most authoritative monitors of coal production, Australia produces coal for about \$20-\$30 a tonne and can ship it here for \$40. The United States mines most coal for a price of about \$35 a tonne which is in line with the \$34 achieved by Colombia and South Africa.

Coal production costs in Germany and Spain are high in comparison to their international competitors. European mines tend to be deeper and harder to work whereas the newer areas in Australia and South Africa are easier and cheaper.

Coal costs about \$176 a tonne to produce in Germany into which the Government sinks subsidies of \$130 a tonne into the industry. However, some of the subsidy is intended for long-term use for re-training and redundancy measures. In Spain coal costs about \$100 a tonne to produce for which the Government puts up a subsidy of \$50 a tonne.

# Keep your eye on the ball...



See following pages for details

## Canada pulls out diplomats from Nigeria

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

CANADA has suspended diplomatic relations with Nigeria, recalled its High Commissioner and closed its offices in Lagos.

The simmering dispute between Canada and Nigeria erupted into the open after the Nigerian military regime of General Sani Abacha refused entry to a Canadian diplomat last December. The crisis also comes as Nigeria filed charges of treason against Wole Soyinka, a Nobel prize-winning author and a critic of the regime, and 11 other Nigerian dissidents over a series of bomb blasts at army bases, which killed three soldiers. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Mr Soyinka, who lives in exile in New York, was on his way to Canada last night as a guest of the Canadian Government. He said the Nigerian junta is striking out at Canada because of its attempt to mount an international boycott against Nigeria over its abuse of human rights.

Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, rejected as "outrageous propaganda" a Nigerian allegation that Canada was involved in terrorism. He said that because of the allegation and the refusal to issue a visa for a Canadian security officer, Ottawa had no choice but to close its diplomatic office.

### Three Britons held hostage

Paris: Three British divers were among 20 foreign oil workers being held hostage by tribesmen aboard a cargo barge on the coast of Nigeria last night (Ben Macintyre writes).

The men working for a British firm in conjunction with French rig operators were taken captive on Tuesday on the Escravos river in the southern Warri region by unarmed tribe members in a jobs dispute.



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'We are sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed brought about by fear and despair'

## Soldier's deadly shots echo King's warning to Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

**THE** massacre of seven Israeli schoolgirls on the ironically named Hill of Peace close to the normally placid border with Jordan could not have come at a worse moment for the tottering Middle East peace process.

Only hours before 20 shots rang out across a part of the biblical Jordan Valley that was named to symbolise the end of war between the two neighbours, Omar Rifai, the Jordanian Ambassador, had warned a group of Israeli businessmen: "The relations between Israel and Jordan are undergoing a period of strain and are not as they should be at this point. In fact, they are close to a situation of crisis."

The extent of the differences between King Hussein of Jordan and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was illustrated in a remarkable pair of mutually recriminatory letters exchanged this week.

The atmosphere worsened when *The Washington Post* quoted Israeli officials as hinting at the history of mental illness in Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty, an assertion hastily denied by Mr Netanyahu. "This is a dirty malingering which is out of place," the Israeli leader said of the story. "I do not speak in such terms and I do not think in such terms."

Behind the strains on what until last year was Israel's warmest peace with any Arab party is Israel's determination to go ahead — even as early as next week — with the construction of a massive new settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem on land conquered from Jordan in 1967.

Equally harmful to ties be-

ing up against Mr Netanyahu's determination to press ahead with expanding settlements, not only in the West Bank but also in the more explosive occupied east Jerusalem.

One result of the attack is likely to be strengthening of the hardliners on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide. "It came at a moment when the main need was for building trust between the sides," said one diplomat. "Unfortunately, the result will be to have the opposite effect."

Although the border between Israel and Jordan was quiet even before peace was signed between King Hussein and the late Yitzhak Rabin in October 1994, there has been a groundswell of popular opposition to the treaty inside Jordan which King Hussein has been resisting.

In January this manifested itself when 1,000 Jordanian policemen had to hold back 4,000 Jordanians demonstrating against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman. "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world," read one slogan.

The protest was organised by a "national committee" that represents a coalition of 21 Jordanian political parties, 18 unions and business lobbies. So far, the King has had little success in his efforts to break resistance to normalisation with Israel among Jordan's Islamic-dominated professional unions, which between them represent 100,000 people. They have ordered expulsion for any member working with Israelis.

Yesterday's killings have added a terrible poignancy to the letter which Mr Netanyahu sent to the King after the attack on his attitudes which was couched in language so undiplomatic that it took both Israeli and Arab officials by surprise.

"It is up to us to realise our historical mutual interests and not let the setbacks of the Palestinian track cloud the understandings that were begun by my predecessors," he wrote on Monday. "Surely, we can achieve this end in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding with the unrelenting hope and resolve to secure a better future for all peoples of this region."

After yesterday's scenes of horror close to the muddy waters of the Jordan River, that goal will be even more difficult to realise.

Leading article, page 21



A military aide interrupts Mr Netanyahu at a meeting to give him news of the girls' killing



Hila Ivri, 14, who survived the attack by a Jordanian soldier, is comforted by a hospital nurse. Seven schoolgirls were killed on an outing to the Hill of Peace

## Hussein cuts short Spain visit

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

VISIBLY distressed after learning of the massacre at Naharayim, King Hussein of Jordan and Queen Noor cut short yesterday a private two-day visit to Spain and flew back to Amman, cancelling a luncheon with José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister.

In a brief statement from Madrid, the King expressed his "deepest sorrow and consternation" over the killings of

the Israeli schoolgirls. He said: "When I learned a few days ago of the danger of violence, I never thought it would lead to this. This is something which is aimed at me, the people of Jordan and the Jordanian Armed Forces. But we must continue to work for peace. Everything I have done, and will do in the future, is in order to secure a legacy of peace for the children of Abraham."

Earlier, he had telephoned Ehud Barak, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and said: "This has hit me as if they were my own daughters. I am very sad. Please convey my grief to the families of the children."

Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said separately that King Hussein had called upon the European Union to play a greater role in the Middle East peace process.

PRESIDENT Clinton condemned the killings yesterday but will defuse Jerusalem's wishes by sending an envoy to Yasser Arafat's emergency conference in Gaza tomorrow.

Mr Clinton called the shooting a senseless act by a Jordanian soldier who may have been deranged and said there was no reason to believe the tragedy was politically motivated by any larger group.

He also cautioned against jumping to conclusions over yesterday's shootings. Mr Clinton used the occasion to praise King Hussein's long record of seeking peace and reconciliation. The comment was intended to counter the King's criticism of the US veto, which he described in a letter to Mr Netanyahu as having damaged American credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East.

Like other American presidents, Mr Clinton is attempting a balancing act to keep the Middle East peace process from collapsing. He angered Arabs last week with America's veto of a UN Security Council resolution criticising Israel's plans to build 6,500 homes for Jews in East Jerusalem, regarded by Palestinians as their future capital.

Since then the US has criticised Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and demanded in vain that he should put off the construction. Israel has urged the US not to attend Mr Arafat's summit, to no avail.

America's envoy will be Edward Abingdon, a significant choice because he is US consul-general in East Jerusalem. He handles day-to-day concerns of Palestinians there and in the West Bank. Plans to send a second American, Aaron David Miller, deputy US peace negotiator, were cancelled without explanation.

Mr Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has also invited the European Union, Japan, Russia, Jordan, Egypt and Norway, all of whom have criticised the Israeli housing plan. Israel was not invited and is worried that international pressure will be marshalled against it at the meeting.

In Washington, the State Department brushed aside Mr Netanyahu's concerns, saying the Arafat conference

## UN chief 'shocked' by attack

New York: A "shocked" Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, deplored the killings of the schoolgirls on the Israel-Jordan border yesterday.

Fred Eckhard, the UN spokesman, said Mr Annan "extends condolences to the families of the victims and the Government and people of Israel". The attack came at a time of crisis in Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Mr Eckhard said the incident "highlights the need to renew confidence in the peace process whose objective is the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East".

The 185-nation UN General Assembly was due to vote later in the day on a resolution criticising Israel for its controversial plans to build a Jewish settlement in disputed East Jerusalem. (AFP)

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### Swiss sent Nazi gold to Spain

New York: Spain received 85 tonnes of gold from Nazi Germany during the Second World War, according to a previously secret document. The bulk of it was shipped from Switzerland, the World Jewish Congress reported.

The congress has been combing the US National Archives to trace Nazi financial dealings with neutral nations. (Reuters)

### Freedom fears

Hong Kong: Two-thirds of people here are "satisfied" about economic prospects after sovereignty reverts to China, but 40 per cent would leave if their freedoms were affected, a local survey found.

### Plotters held

Bujumbura: Six people, including two army officers, were arrested after security services foiled a plot to assassinate Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's military ruler. Car bombs rocked the capital. (AFP)

### President's man

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam, shaken by a bribery scandal that has claimed aides, named Lee Hoi Chang, a Prime Minister he sacked in 1994, to be chairman of his New Korea Party. (AP)

### Street crime

Albany, New York: The state senate passed a Bill making it illegal to urinate in public and lie in doorways or on pavements in commercial districts. It aimed to improve the quality of life, its sponsor said. (AP)



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# US Navy 'shot down TWA jet'

INDEPENDENT investigators led by Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's press secretary, yesterday claimed to have found radar evidence showing that TWA Flight 800 was accidentally shot down last July by a US Navy missile during a secret training exercise that had been covered up by the US Government.

Federal investigators flatly rejected the conspiracy allegations, insisting that Mr Salinger's "friendly fire" theory was a "cruel hoax".

Flight TWA 800, bound for Paris, exploded off Long Island just minutes after take-off killing all 230 people on board.

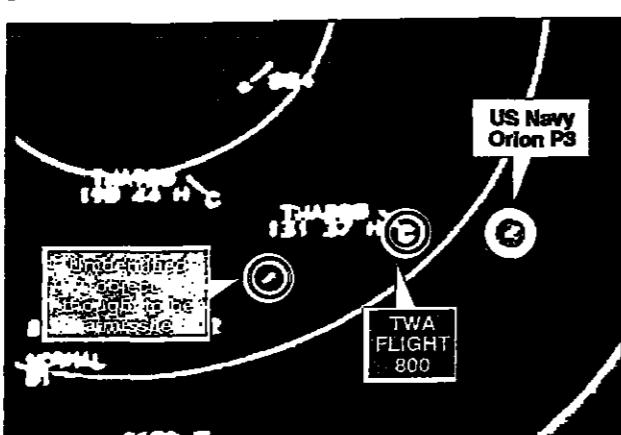
Mr Salinger's initial claims that a US Navy missile caused the disaster were widely dismissed but yesterday he produced a series of radar images from a John F Kennedy Airport air traffic control video which he said provided absolute proof.

The radar evidence, contained in a 67-page report and published in *Paris-Match*, shows an unidentified "blip" heading for the airliner "at about 1,500 miles per hour". Mr Salinger and Mike Sommer, a fellow journalist, said at a Paris press conference:

"The plane was hit in error by an American Navy missile which had lost its lock on its

original target... launched by a US military vessel, either by a US Navy missile ship or a submerged submarine involved in that night's secret exercises." Mr Salinger said.

The investigators called for the US Congress to open immediate hearings into the disaster and urged William Cohen, the Secretary of Defense, to launch an inquiry into a tragedy that Mr Salinger has called "missilegate".



A radar screen image produced in the Salinger report alleging that "friendly fire" brought down the jet

Investigators say there are three possible theories to explain the disaster — a bomb, mechanical failure or a missile. The US Navy has insisted that no missile tests were under way in the area at the time.

"We have absolutely no new evidence that there was any incident like this," Kenneth Bacon, chief spokesman for the Pentagon, said. "All missiles owned by the Navy, by

any ships, submarines or planes in the area have been inventoried, personnel have been interviewed, records have been checked."

On Tuesday FBI agents raided the Florida home of Richard Russell, a retired pilot and a member of Mr Salinger's investigating team, and confiscated videotape containing the radar images.

The tape has been closely scrutinised by aviation experts who concluded it contained no evidence of a rogue missile. "It has the blip of the plane [TWA 800]. It has the blip of other planes. It has no missile. It never did. It never will," a federal official told *The New York Times*.

However, Mr Sommer said: "The Navy has not been honest. It says no missile was fired that night. That is not true. It tells half-truths, half-lies and questions those who question it."

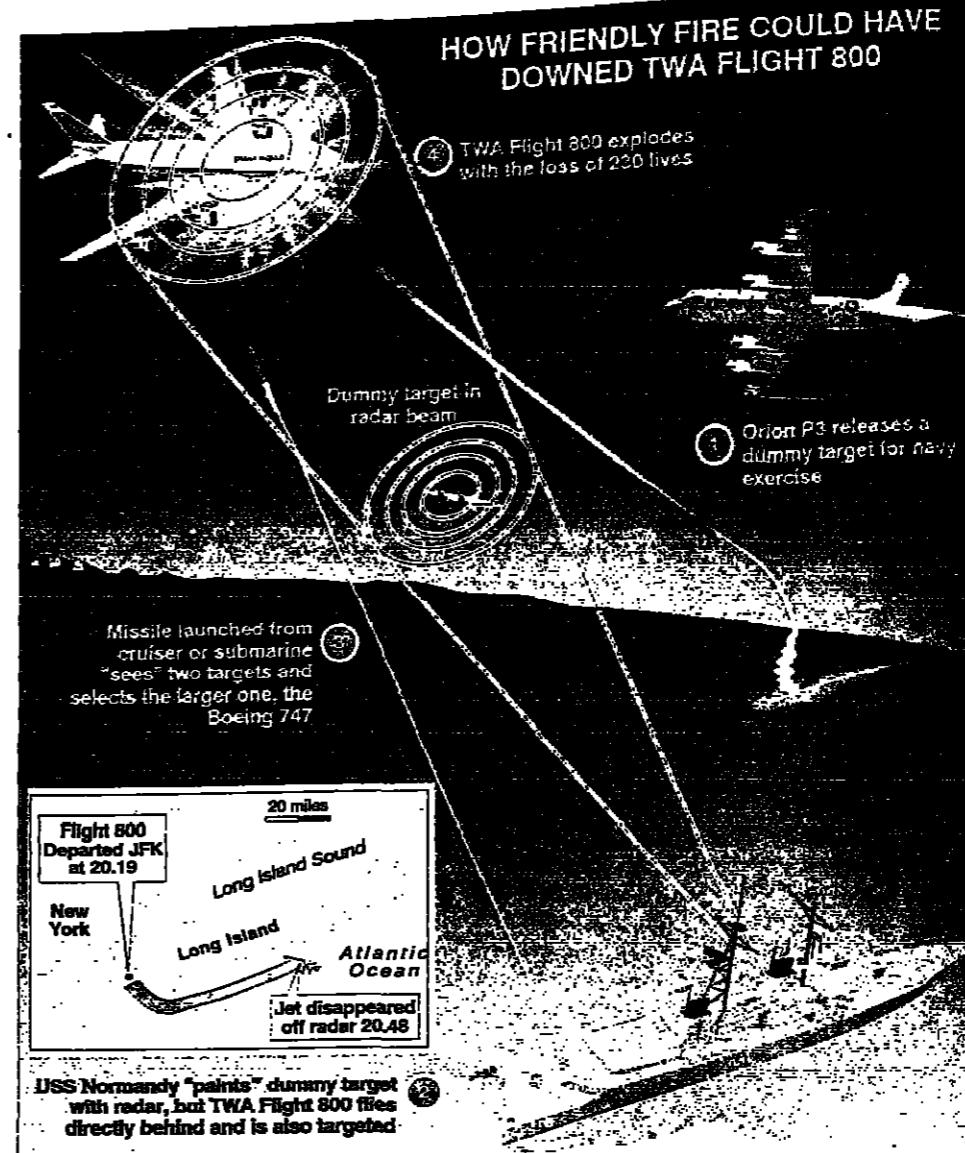
The report alleges that there may have been a hush-up because the missile was "probably" carrying a warhead of a type, banned under the SALT I arms treaty. It also quotes unnamed witnesses who

monitored anti-terrorism exercises on the day of the explosion, and who claimed to have heard a voice saying: "Oh, my God, I just hit that plane".

After the crash, "apparently as a cover-up, a missile ship involved in the disaster was sent out to sea via the Middle East and its crew dispersed around the world", the investigators said.

According to Mr Salinger's theory, a missile was launched at a dummy target, which the report suggests may have been a "Tomahawk cruise missile". The missile may then have locked onto the larger target of TWA Flight 800, which was flying "perilously close to the active warning area" and at a lower altitude than normal in order to avoid a US Air Force flight.

Brigadier-General Benton K Partin, a former commander of the US Air Force armaments laboratory, said the damage sustained by Flight 800 could have been caused only by a banned missile.



## FBI investigators dismiss conspiracy theory as 'bunkum'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN officials poured scorn on the TWA Flight 800 conspiracy theories being touted by Pierre Salinger, the former White House press secretary, and others who believe that the airliner was hit accidentally by an American military missile.

James Kallstrom, the senior FBI man on the case, said the conspiracy theorists should "get a life" and that Mr Salinger's analysis of the crash on July 17, 1996, was "just total nonsense; there is not a fact in there". An increasingly exasperated Mr Kallstrom added: "The theory that the US Navy had anything to do with this was put to bed a long time ago."

Other leading members of the crash investigation team lined up weirdly to dismiss the Internet-based accusations of Mr Salinger. Kenneth Bacon, a Pentagon official, called them "bunkum" and a "rehashing of old theories".

He added, with heavy irony: "These allegations have been investigated time after time after time. They have the credibility of Pierre Salinger behind them and nothing has changed that."

Mr Salinger's reputation as a hard-digging newsman took a knock when he first produced his theory, only to be

surprised when reporters told him that the very same document which he was presenting as a scoop had in fact been posted for several weeks on the Internet.

Mr Kallstrom, who is assistant director of the FBI's New York office, said that the speculation was hurtful to families of the dead. "They are on this emotional roller-coaster," he said. "They tell me that they are just so depressed over these conspiracy theories."

David Isby, of *Jane's Intelligence Review*, said if a military weapon had hit the Boeing 747, it would have left distinctive debris off Long Island, quite unlike anything found in the flight wreckage.

Another weakness that can be noted in the Salinger case is the absence of any military witnesses. If a missile was fired from a US Navy boat, Mr Isby noted, it would have been seen by numerous sailors. "A hundred and fifty sailors and no one calls the press? Hard to believe in this day and age," he said.

On recent form, the American military has not been able to conceal even a bout of bottom-pinching in the junior ranks, let alone a calamity such as the downing of a commercial jetliner.

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# Berisha clings on as Tirana is swept by tide of anarchy

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S anarchy engulfed the capital, Tirana, yesterday, and the country fell into total isolation with its land borders, airports and ports all closed.

As foreign embassies began evacuating their nationals, President Berisha and the Opposition admitted that the country was beyond their control and made a united plea to the European Union for an intervention force. In the short term, however, the President's resignation seems the only short-term measure that can achieve any calm on the streets.

Heavy gunfire sounded around the capital as night drew in, and army tanks were reported to be heading for the central square. The city's prisons were emptied, including the two most important political inmates — Ramiz Alia, the former neo-Communist President and Patos Nano, the Socialist figurehead.

Military arsenals around the capital were being looted all day, with streams of children, adults and elderly staggering away with Kalashnikovs, machine-guns and ammunition. Albert Brojka, the Mayor of Tirana, appealed for calm from all political sides and religious groups.

"The people must help the police in their duties — and above all else they must not fire at them," he said.

While the street value of the Lek faltered only slightly, prices of food staples doubled and shops and warehouses on Tirana's outskirts were looted. Six hundred and fifty tonnes of flour were taken amid chaotic scenes at a Swiss-owned warehouse: "We called the police;

they came and left," said the tearful manager, Mustafa Koskija. The central market closed early after panic-buying of fruit and vegetables. The British Embassy gave a "final warning" to nationals still in Tirana, and said it could not guarantee any subsequent evacuation efforts. About 120 Britons and 160 Americans were reported to be heading for the port of Durres.

South of the capital, most cars and lorries were heading to military arsenals abandoned by the police, and villagers could be seen trekking across country and along railway tracks burdened by weapons and ammunition.

Durres fell early in the morning. "There was panic everywhere, and when the gunshots began we just hit the deck," said David Wold, an American missionary waiting forlornly for a ferry to Italy.

All ships abandoned the port in the early hours as a rebel takeover became imminent, and by midday there were more than 50 vessels standing offshore. About 1,000 Albanians were reported to have fled on board, and many more were reported to be in small boats appearing off the Balkans' most pivotal state.

Albania was one of the world's largest producers of Kalashnikovs, and the sheer scale of the investment in self-defence made by Enver Hoxha, the former Stalinist dictator, is now apparent.

The country also faces a major food shortage. Many farmers sold their land and livestock to invest in the calamitous pyramid savings schemes, and Albania is now reliant on Greece, Italy and other neighbours for its food supplies.

Last night Tirana hospitals reported a girl aged four killed and 26 people wounded by stray gunfire in the capital. Reports indicated that Tirana airport was in rebel hands.



P.G. Wodehouse's work is rated high among European achievements, while Sophia Loren's décolletage is more stylish than that of Hollywood stars

## Italians put Britain at top of culture class

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

OXFORD and Cambridge, the BBC, football, and — perhaps more oddly — P.G. Wodehouse yesterday topped a list of 100 "European" achievements and inventions trumpeted by a leading Italian newspaper as a response to the rising tide of Euroscepticism.

*Corriere della Sera*, noting that the debate on Maastricht was fraying tempers and emphasising divisions as the single currency deadline drew nearer, said it was about time Europeans — Britons included — took greater pride in what they had in common.

Italy's own contributions to the list of Euro-triumphs feature strongly, not surprisingly, with Armani fashion, spaghetti, Dante, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Olivetti, the Mona Lisa, the Vespa, Italian shoes, Neapolitan songs, pizza (Neapolitan, not American in origin), Venice, Ferrari cars and Julius Caesar as the top Italian contributions to European civilisation.

More general, Europe-wide achievements envied and unmatched by the Americans or Japanese are held to be the Airbus, architects (from Renzo Piano to Richard Rogers), entrepreneurs (Luciano Benetton to Richard Branson), the décolletage — European women such as Sophia Loren display a cleavage far more stylishly than Hollywood stars, *Corriere* claims. Newspapers and books ("Gutenberg was one of us"), sausages and cheeses, coffee (with origins in Venice and London), beer, bicycles, high-speed trains, cathedrals and monasteries, and the bistro ("given a couple of centuries even the English will understand it") are all on the list.

The Mediterranean countries win praise for olive oil, wine, the siesta, and Christopher Columbus. Greece gave us Homer and the Olympic Games; Switzerland, the Swiss army knife and fine chocolate (with Belgium); Poland provided the Pope; Belgium, Tintin; The Netherlands, Van Gogh and Denmark.

Germany can claim the Mercedes, Beethoven, and (a controversial listing) Helmut Kohl. France gets in with the baguette, Cartier and champagne, and Spain with Don Quixote and flamenco. Nordic countries are in with the sauna, mobile phones, and Ikea.

But perhaps with one eye on Europe and the British election campaign, it is Britain which wins most points, with admiring (if slightly old-fashioned) entries for "incomparable" actors ("Rupert Everett to Hugh Grant, Sean Connery to Anthony Hopkins"), dramatists ("Tom Stoppard, John Osborne"), elegant shirts, Church's shoes, Agatha Christie, B&B ("Europe's answer to the motel"), the Barbour jacket, parliamentary democracy, television, sports from tennis to rugby, Shakespeare, the black cab, the mini-skirt, the Beatles and punk. The English language — as spread by the "incomparable" BBC World Service — is praised for becoming a universal language "despite all our attempts to mangle it".

## President's family 'escape on ferry stormed by refugees'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE children of President Berisha and perhaps other relatives of the encircled, apparently doomed, Albanian leader were last night said to be among hundreds of refugees on the *Palladio*, an Italian ferry which docked at the port of Bari in southern Italy.

It had headed for the Italian coast after being overwhelmed by fleeing Albanians in the port of Durres. Italian police cordoned off the ferry and refused to confirm that Mr Berisha's children were on board, although they said it was carrying "an important cargo". Albanian authorities closed the port of Durres minutes after the boat left.

Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, called talks with his military chiefs at the Palazzo Chigi — Italy's Number 10. Italy fears a repetition of the influx of 1991, when tens of thousands of desperate Albanians in rusting ships poured into Italy after the collapse of the Communist regime. Many died when their boats capsized.

The captain of the *Palladio*, Ernesto Giardina, said a "ferocious crowd" had burst into the port. "We had orders over the radio to cast off and get out fast," he said. Durres was under siege from armed and stone-throwing Albanians who also tried to board another Italian ferry. A cargo

vessel, the *Giorgis*, with at least 200 Albanians on board, is also nearing Brindisi.

Italian reconnaissance pilots flying over the Adriatic said the *Giorgis* was weaving from side to side, suggesting it was under the control of the refugees. They said the Albanians were armed with iron bars, sticks and guns.

Earlier three Albanian air force helicopters had landed at Brindisi and their crews deserted; Italian military sources said there were women and children in the helicopters.

Three Albanian patrol boats carrying an unknown number of people also surrendered to the Italian frigate *Aliseo* in the Adriatic.

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# Power suits and spike heels

**MILAN**

Shoulder pads plumped up an eclectic collection in Milan, which borrowed heavily from the 1980s, says Iain R. Webb

**W**hatever the mood at Milan Fashion Week, Italian fashion designers can always be relied on for a comprehensive checklist of forthcoming trends. The most obvious for autumn/winter 1997 steals from the 1980s. Power dressing is back in fashion, although the jacket has remained the mainstay in many wardrobes.

This season women will be able to drag their shoulder pads out of the closet and, once more, wear them with pride.

Designers in Milan also focused on the way in which men dress, as popularised by Ann Demeulemeester in Paris. At its most extreme, this means direct copies of men's trousers which hang loose and full (everywhere from iceberg to Alberto Biani), but more practically it offers a pared-down approach.

Gianni Versace's reserve made his collection one of the week's highlights. Strong, simple lines – tuxedo jackets and coats, skirts which either skinned the top of the thigh or the top of the spike-heel knee boot (an accessory you cannot afford to be without this autumn) and polo-neck sweaters which sometimes became a dress. His black leather was great, and, in a moment of pure flash, he showed multi-coloured, sparkly evening looks.

Giorgio Armani still makes getting dressed look effortless. For his Emporio line he added a touch of gloss to his understated silhouette. However, his eponymous line was almost entirely eveningwear, apart from a few sculpted, underplayed jackets. Despite the obvious question of relevance, Armani has the knack of making even the most baroque designs look modern.



Left to right: JIL SANDER, wrapover skirts; VERSACE, black leather; BYBLOS, slimline suits; PRADA, understated elegance



Left to right: MOSCHINO, knits; LAWRENCE STEELE, velvet, SPORTMAX, red; DOLCE & GABBANA, dramatic

Tom Ford at Gucci offered Schwarzenegger shoulders and spike high heels. He also showed knee-length skirts with flies, (just like on men's trousers), fly-front jackets (no buttons), wrap skirts, wide lapels and drapey jersey dresses. Pointy red patent shoes

highlight a top-to-toe black look. Jil Sander's pure style is plain and to the point – a roll-neck sweater with a wrap wool skirt, a dembow-style jacket with no fastenings, worn with baggy trousers or a slim longer skirt, and bias-knits which twist about the body.

Velvet dresses with cap sleeves and draped waistlines looked lush without being ostentatious. The mood was equally pragmatic at Prada. Simple black overcoats and, once again, tuxedo-style jackets worn with pencil or wrap skirts, while army fatigues and tracksuit tops (also seen at Gianfranco Ferré in ivory wool) were shown with beaded chiffon skirts. Dolce & Gabbana dropped their diaphanous chiffons in favour of sleek tailoring, yet the mannish, monochromatic Sicilian suits were dressed up with glamorous satin coats edged with colourful furs, or appliquéd and embroidered with red roses.

Labels such as SportMax,



MARNI: pure hedonism — velvet, leather and fur were the key fabrics in this collection



Left to right: MISSONI, ALBERTO BIANI, ALESSANDRO DELL'AQUA

tured sassy-looking Babes in the Wood (think the Spice Girls meet Gretel) dressed in lots of pretty lace, plush velvet and snuggly sweaters. Ferretti's mainline collection saw her trademark fragile petticoat dresses layered under ribbed sweaters or over narrow trousers. Best of all were flock satins and layers of mocha chiffon banded with chocolate velvet.

There were great coats and jackets (cut soft like cardigans) at Moschino. Layered with shiny brocades, crochet lace, rustic knits (sometimes beaded with rhinestones) and embroidered velvet, the models look like demented English nannies. A richly textured and extremely nostalgic look. Equally covetable was the collection by Missoni – this season their distinctive zigzag knits were coloured like autumn leaves or kingfisher feathers. Simultaneously sumptuous and slick.

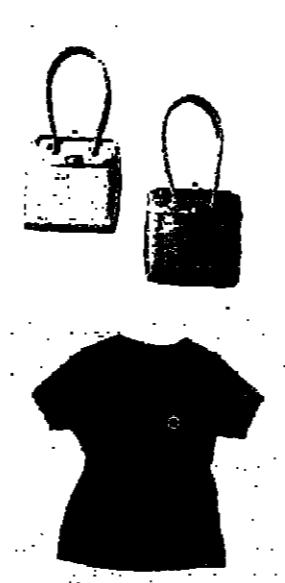
Anna Molinari put pretty punkettes in party frocks and jewels. The clothes echoed her playful mood: a prim choc-

tunes and soft midi-skirts were truly desirable. High-waisted coats embroidered with folky flowers look fresh, while velvet, leather and fur were key fabrics.

Despite the obvious downside to watching show after show, with trend after trend repeated over and over, there were moments of glory in Milan – just few and far between.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS  
Iain R. Webb is fashion director of *Elle* magazine

Left above: Catherine Walker brown velvet dress (£300) centre: Anja Fewkes purple beaded jacket in knitted yarn (£595)  
below: Muir and Osborne frock coat (£395)  
Right above: Bruce Oldfield jersey cocktail dress (£700) centre: Any Hindmarch shantung Daphne handbag (£216 each) below:  
Two Caroline Charles T-shirt (£21 each)



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# Who will follow my leader?



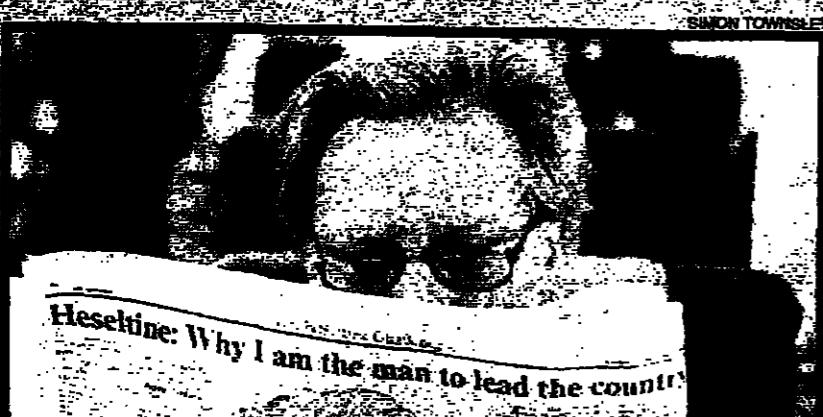
**MICHAEL PORTILLO**, Defence Secretary. Odds 3-1  
Advantage: Euro-sceptic. Disadvantage: Spanish



**KENNETH CLARKE**, Chancellor. Odds 12-1  
Advantage: scares Labour. Disadvantage: scares Tories more



**MICHAEL HOWARD**, Home Secretary. Odds 3-1  
Advantage: shoots to kill. Disadvantage: often misses



**MICHAEL HESELTINE**, Deputy PM. Odds 16-1  
Advantage: bland. Disadvantage: too close to former prime minister



**STEPHEN DORRELL**, Health Secretary. Odds 6-1  
Advantage: mover. Disadvantage: not a shaker



**WILLIAM HAGUE**, Welsh Secretary. Odds 6-1  
Advantage: like nothing. Disadvantage: done nothing

The Tories have been working on their Big Idea this week — developing insurance policies to prepare for retirement. It is not, however, Peter Lilley's pension plans or Stephen Dorrell's residential care initiative which has attracted the most interest among Tory MPs, but the plain Cabinet ministers are making for the imminent termination of their own employment. The insurance policy they have invested in is a portfolio of backbench support for the leadership election they all expect to follow any May rout.

Like nuclear submarines, the contenders' campaigns will go on silent running from today. The display of unity required at the Tory party mini-conference, Central Council, in Bath this weekend, and the general election almost upon us, will make surface manoeuvres difficult, but occasionally evidence of campaigning breaks water.

It did so most spectacularly this week when the front page of *The Express* trumpeted an "exclusive" alleging that Baroness Thatcher was lending her support to a putative Portillo campaign. Like Elizabeth I, or a Cheltenham bookie, she has a habit of perennially changing favourites. Only last night it was alleged that Tony Blair was her real darling. The lady, however, is not for quoting and has protested John Major is the only man she wants in Number Ten.

Mischiefous spirits thought she might protest too much.

Even more cynical souls detected the hand of one of Mr Portillo's rivals behind *The Express* story which suggested an unseemly haste to wear the crown on his part.

The story, whatever its source, did not accurately reflect the bigger picture. In so far as Lady Thatcher has given consideration to a Tory defeat, and she intends to be seen campaigning vigorously to prevent one, her thoughts settle more on the Right.

While *The Express* presses rumoured on Tuesday evening, alleging a Portillo plot that

never was, one of the Defence Secretary's declared rivals was presiding at a dinner that dared not speak its name.

John Redwood was holding the latest in a series of not-so-discreet dinners in Shepherd's, a Westminster restaurant where he and three

of his Commons supporters entertained a quartet of candidates who might be expected in the House in due course. The purpose of the gatherings, to show off Mr Redwood to the potential leadership electorate, could not be made explicit. Instead, the dinner was sold as an advice session on how to win the general election.

Mr Redwood complements

the dinners with drinks parties for the media in the Wilfred

keeping the franking machine busy with his personal notes. Mr Dorrell has also been issuing invitations. As might befit an energetic steward of the nation's health, he has been sighted campaigning over breakfast with the cleverer sort of Tory, going to work on an egghead. Mr Dorrell's cause, damaged in recent weeks by gaffes on devolution and monetary union, still attracts talent.

Some of those who have talked warmly of Mr Dorrell in the past are now turning their attentions to William Hague. The Welsh Secretary, although only 36, and viewed as a flinty rightwinger, is seen by some of the Majorties who thought Dorrell might be the best heir as the true successor. His recent engagement provoked one Westminster observer to put £50,000 on Hague's leadership chances, cutting his odds.

The backbench bandwagon with the biggest momentum, however, belongs to the minister most likely to put backs up outside Tory circles. The louder the liberals vilify Michael Howard, the more vigorous his support grows. A fastidious man, he eschews any campaigning himself, although he enjoys sparring matches over supper with bright colleagues and commentators such as the Stratford candidate and former minister Francis Maude and the *Daily Mail's* Simon Heffer. The efforts on his behalf are orchestrated by Sir Michael Spicer, a moderate Eurosceptic and protégé of Lord Parkinson.

He has already attracted David Heathcoat-Amory, Sir Ivan Lawrence, James Cran and Sir Nicholas Bonson to a cause with which Norman Lamont and Archie Hamilton are held to be sympathetic. So perhaps as crucially, is the *Daily Mail*.

There are two candidates, undoubtedly heavyweights, who also enjoy press support. Unfortunately it is the wrong sort of press. Both Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are admired by the lobby and the liberal sections of the journalistic community, but that does not make up for a lack of numbers among the ranks of Conservative columnists and especially MPs.

Clarke can count on purist pro-Europeans such as Jim Lester and Hugh Dykes, who feel that Dorrell is damaged goods, an ideological Icarus who flew too close to *The Sun's* line on Europe. Heseltine hopes to exploit a desperation among left-wingers that there is nobody strong enough to

a better mind, and in Eleanor Laing and Crispin Blunt two campaigners destined to make it to the Commons.

A cooling hand on the fevered brow may be what the Tory party feels like in defeat, but more likely it will want what it has been denied — a leader who can provide colour

and charisma after years spent stressing managerial competence, a leader prepared to end equivocation, a leader who will provoke howls from the high-minded but speak to Tory instincts — a leader, in short, like Lady Thatcher, or even, some might say, a Tony Blair.

● Odds supplied by Ladbrokes.

Valerie Grove's interview with Roy Foster will appear next week.



**MALCOLM RIFKIND**, Odds 10-1  
Advantage: clever. Disadvantage: shows it



**JOHN REDWOOD**, Odds 10-1  
Advantage: wired. Disadvantage: weird

Street headquarters of his private think-tank and a series of speeches round the country for aspirant MPs. Like Mr Chips, Mr Redwood takes a particular interest in making New Boys feel welcome. Recently, he has spoken at meetings for five candidates expected to make it into the Commons, even in the event of defeat: David Ruffley in Bury St Edmunds, John Hayes in South Holland, Teresa May in Maidenhead, Laurence Robertson in Tewkesbury, and Gerald Howarth in Aldershot.

Mr Redwood is not the only potential leader who is courting candidates. Several have received beautifully handwritten letters from the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell. Mr Dorrell has taken, according to one, including detailed advice on the state of their majorities. As well as

Heffer. The efforts on his behalf are orchestrated by Sir Michael Spicer, a moderate Eurosceptic and protégé of Lord Parkinson.

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## Philip Howard



■ Will the great god Pan preside over our rite of spring?

**T**ony Blair is not quite Bambi. Nor is he exactly the Devil with demonic red eyes of the posters. But there is a case for claiming that he is Pan. For: as a lad, he played the modern equivalent of piper in a group. He has that fixed smile, as worn by the earliest statues of naked young men, and so known technically as "archaic". It is impossible for spectators to see whether he has hairy legs and cloven hooves at the Dispatch Box, but cartoonists contrive to give him the look of a Faun, Satyr or Holy Goat. Take in anachronistic references to Peter Pan who never grew up. And like Pan, Blair tries to be all things to all voters. Folk etymology derived Pan's name from *pan*, the Greek word for "all" or everything, and made puns about love conquering all, and Pan being loved by all the gods. In fact the Arcadian *Pan* probably came from strange pastures to the east, as the pastoral Vedic god who was the protector and increaser of herds.

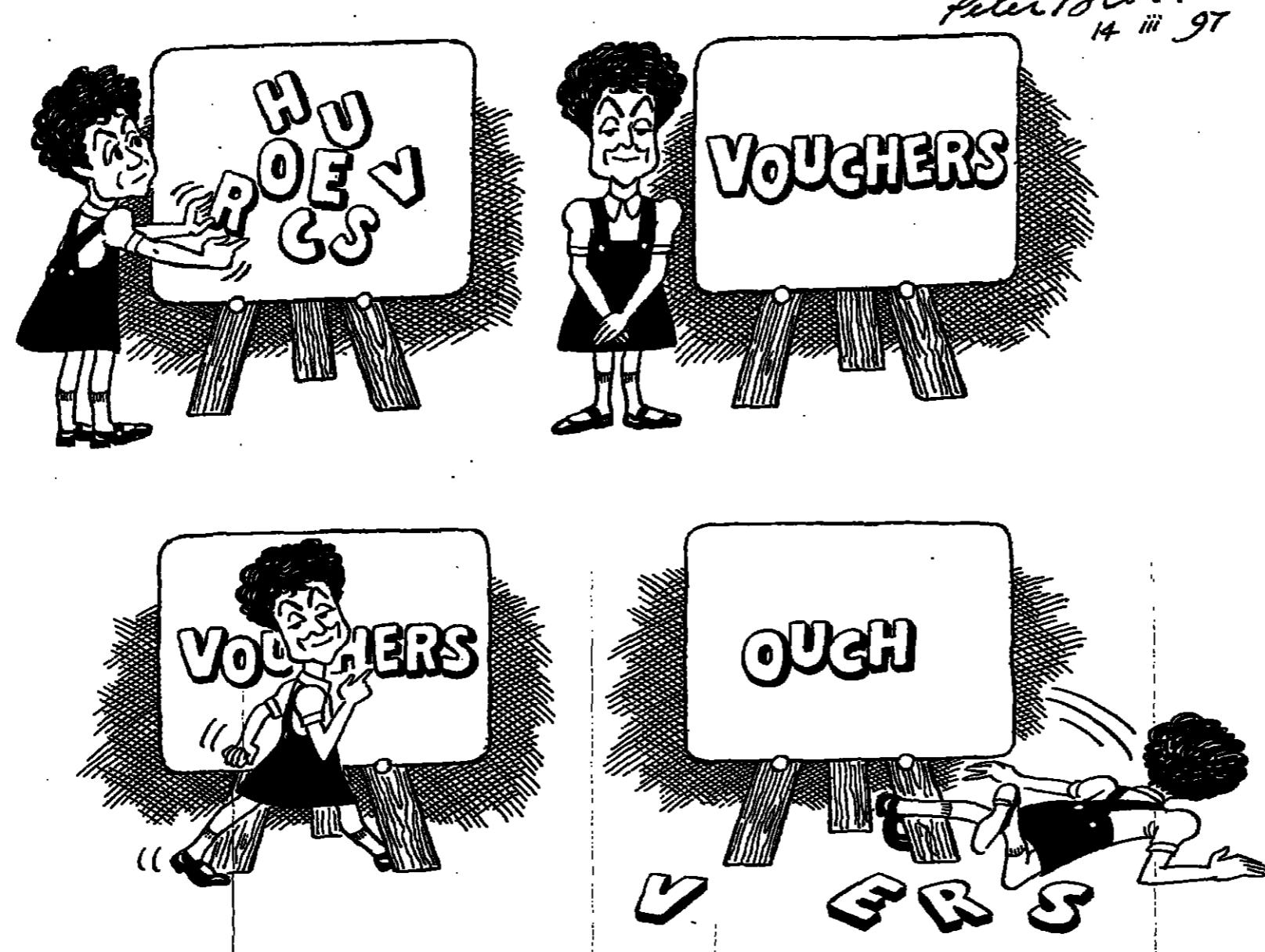
Politics needs such symbolism to simplify its message. Colours have been used for partisan identification since before the Byzantine riots between the Greens and the Blues. At Eatanswill (otherwise Sudbury, Suffolk) the Pickwickians observed the Blues or Tories campaigning thirstily against the Buils or Liberals. Blue still signals Tory, with variations and deeper shades of blue in perverse regions. But the People's Flag is no longer deepest red, more smoked salmon pink, with a red rose as garnish with the watercress. Advertising agents get paid millions and ennobled for dreaming up such famous images as a shabby lion weeping red tears. It is strange that the expensive builders of commercial images have not come up with the notion of using the oldest symbols of all.

Perhaps they have. Are cartoonists showing John Major wearing his underclothes outside his overclothes hunting Superman, or even more improbably Hercules? Labour posters show a two-headed Major looking in both directions over tax. Consciously or not, they are echoing the two-faced Roman Janus, the opener and closer of all things, including elections. And on Wednesday night John Boardman, giving the Walter Neurath Memorial Lecture at the National Gallery, made these old images dance. So he brought the imagery of modern politicians to mind.

John Prescott, with his cruise steward's trident, could star as the bluff god of the sea, Poseidon or Neptune roaring at the passengers above the waves. Margaret Thatcher actually was known, by the brave, as Boadicea. There are several parliamentary candidates for Aphrodite in her nightie: from Clare Short to Virginia Bottomley, so unkindly described by her poor man's Thersites colleague as "bone from the neck up". Ann Widdecombe for merciless Hera/Juno, the goddess of prison. Lady Olga Maitland for Iris, the rainbow messenger and serviceable title-tattle of her superiors, and the Beast of Bolsover for artisan Vulcan.

But Pan has a far longer shelf-life than other myths. A cartoon showing a goat's leg sticking through the ceiling, and wife exclaiming to husband "I told you they were holding an orgy up there" is intelligible to those with no interest in the ancient world. In Manhattan, Woody Allen echoes the pipes of Pan with harmonica and innocents of Arcadia abroad in the city. So Pan still plays in art, literature and life, from Milton to Shelley, from Saki to *Private Eye*. Animal imagery also works for politicians: John Major as Pooh or Mole, Blair as Piglet, Enoch Powell as Eeyore and Paddy Ashdown as Tigger. In that strange chapter in *The Wind in the Willows* called "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn", who appears having rescued Baby Otter? Who else but Pan?

Pan is an odd archetype. He combines bestial passions with animal nobility and innocence. His provenance from a lost golden Arcady plays an old tune on ancient pipes, and is a potent political image-type. But even in Arcadia death as well as love conquers all. "The great god Pan is dead" was a cry heard by a ship sailing past the Ionian Islands at about the time of the nativity of Christ. Pan may be dead, but the old smiler with the goat's horns and legs will not lie down. And his cloven hooves drum a reminder to politicians that all careers, however ephemeral, glorious, eventually come to dust when Great Pan is dead.



## The day after defeat

## The pressure on John Major to resign

will be intense. He must resist it.

## The Tories need time to take stock

**O**h come on, let's just say it. The Tories are heading for defeat. Granted, miracles can happen. Tony Blair might be eaten by a shark. The Archangel Gabriel might appear in Trafalgar Square on the eve of poll and command Britain to vote Conservative. Jack Straw might read his paper the wrong way up and pledge himself to the slaughter of the first-born. Though any vacuum as perfect as new Labour remains capable at all times of imploding, the vacuum chamber has been engineered well and placed in stainless steel. The chances of accident diminish as the clock ticks.

So take yourself to that likely moment outside Conservative Central Office in Smith Square on the morning of May 2, when John Major, in the dignified and steady way we have come to expect his steps onto the pavement to concede defeat. What happens next, in the few short minutes before national attention switches to Labour's Millbank Tower, could be critical to Britain. Should Major, there and then, declare his intention to resign forthwith as party leader? Neil Kinnock, close to tears, as good as did. The emotional pressure on John Major to do likewise will be intense. He must resist it.

Ready for the kill, the *Daily Mail* will not be pleased. Along with an assortment of commentators in other papers, its opinion columns will declare that the Conservative Party needs an immediate fresh start. There is no time to be lost. (Mr Portillo's friends will say) in clearing away the baggage of defeat – of which the old Tory leader is part – and greeting the new dawn under new Labour with a new leader. There will be a good deal of metaphor, much of mixed, about the raising of banners on commanding heights, the establishment of clear blue water, new tunes we can whistle, and the replacement of fudge by focus.

I should confirm that he is not minded to be a candidate. And he should suggest that (whatever formal rights of tenure the rules accord him), the timing of the leadership election should be up to the new parliamentary Conservative Party, whose temperature he will wish to take quite soon. But if they think it makes sense to settle down a little first, in Opposition, and gauge the mood of the new Parliament and of the party in the country, then he is prepared to carry on as caretaker leader until a proper contest in (perhaps) November, but in any event within 12 months.

What are the precedents? Precedent does not, in fact, suggest there need be a leadership contest at all. Clement Attlee, defeated in the 1951 election, carried on as leader for four years. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, defeated in 1964, did not resign until 1965 – and then only because another general election was looming and he did not wish to lead the party into it. Edward Heath did not resign after his defeat in October 1974,

obituary lowers the spirits, and newspaper commentary on the Prime Minister has even now begun to take on an obituarial tone. By polling day John Major will be exhausted and perhaps depressed. Nothing would be more tempting than to terminate the pain with a statesmanlike announcement on May 2 that he means to resign as soon as procedures for electing a successor can reasonably be set in motion. What he will ask himself, is the alternative? I can tell him, and some of his friends will tell him, and party members across the country should be speaking up and telling their representatives now. Mr Major should say there ought to be a leadership election – and (he should add) before too long. There are two questions for him, he should add: first, should that contest be before or after the party conference in October this year? Secondly, will he be a candidate himself?

He should confirm that he is not minded to be a candidate. And he should suggest that (whatever formal rights of tenure the rules accord him), the timing of the leadership election should be up to the new parliamentary Conservative Party, whose temperature he will wish to take quite soon. But if they think it makes sense to settle down a little first, in Opposition, and gauge the mood of the new Parliament and of the party in the country, then he is prepared to carry on as caretaker leader until a proper contest in (perhaps) November, but in any event within 12 months.

How can a new Tory MP, elected to Parliament for the first time on May 1, exercise an informed choice in the election of a leader when he or she has only around 12 weeks before the summer recess to get acquainted with the candidates? How can MPs properly consult their constituency associations when neither the issues nor the personalities have been aired in the Commons or in the press? How can the party nationally come to any view when there

but was toppled the following year. Jim Callaghan stayed on for a year, until 1980. And those are the cases in which a Prime Minister who lost a general election did quit before the next one. That is not the rule. Heath was toppled only after his third defeat. Harold Wilson kept his job after losing the 1970 election, to win in 1974.

It is unlikely that John Major wants to carry on until the election after next. This we have to accept. What must not be accepted is that a leadership contest must be urgent.

Elements (in particular on the Right) are already quietly putting about that there must be an immediate contest. It does not make no mistake: what the Right has in mind is a putch. They want to bounce their candidates and their arguments upon the new parliamentary Conservative Party while it is still in a state of shock. This, their reason, is when their case for a dramatic change will sound strongest.

**B**ut if the argument for a lurch to the Right has as much underlying strength as it has superficial appeal, why should it be weaker at the end of this year? By then, new Tory MPs will have had time to examine the arguments at leisure, and get to know the Right's leading contenders a little better. What is the Right afraid of, that it should want the contest so soon?

How can a new Tory MP, elected to Parliament for the first time on May 1, exercise an informed choice in the election of a leader when he or she has only around 12 weeks before the summer recess to get acquainted with the candidates? How can MPs properly consult their constituency associations when neither the issues nor the personalities have been aired in the Commons or in the press? How can the party nationally come to any view when there

has been no party conference to hear the arguments, discuss the policies, or view the seaside cavalcade upon which the candidates can display their charms?

The choice of leader is a decision with which the Conservative Party will probably have to live for at least a decade. It is a decade in which the whole politics of Britain is set to change. The Labour Party that Opposition MPs will face across the floor will be a new and different beast, taking the reins of government on the flimsiest of prospectuses about its intentions and plans.

What is Labour going to do? Will it be pro-Europe or (as I suspect) Eurosceptical? Will its domestic politics be radical or (as I suspect) tinkering, profligate or right-fisted? Whose side will the Liberal Democrats be on? Will the Scottish referendum this summer plump for a consultative or a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh?

Until we have the flavour of Labour government, is it wise to settle – perhaps immutably – the flavour of the Opposition? How can Tory MPs, even those with experience at Westminster, choose their field marshal, their weaponry and their mode of combat, until government has forced Tony Blair to show his hand? It is not as though there were any reason to rush. The Tories have until 2002 to prepare their next general election campaign. In the critical months during which Blairism is first observed in action, a leader with Major's assured and chairmanlike skills is precisely what the party needs as it settles its own responses. Fate offers the party what fate so seldom does: the time and space to look before leaping. It would be crazy not to take it.

Conceding the merits of my case, some may ask why now is the moment to make it. The general election is not yet upon us, quite. The result is not known. First things, surely, first?

No. A presumption can creep up almost unawares. Somebody tosses it out with a "naturally" or an "of course", somebody else repeats it as an acknowledged truth, and before a week has passed the whole world assumes it to be unchallenged. Soon we will be in the thick of an election with no time to mull over the assumptions with which we entered it. A presumption is growing that if the Tories lose then John Major goes – quickly. The presumption is unfounded, almost without precedent, and wrong. It should be rebutted now.

**Give the capital authority**  
Tessa Blackstone  
on Labour's plans for Londoners

**A** fortnight after the Government unveiled its big idea for London, there is no evidence from the opinion polls of any diminution of Labour's lead in the capital. Selling off London Underground would, the Tories hoped, bring all those crucial floating voters in London and Southeastern marginal seats back into the fold. But was this ever likely? After the recent débâcle of disruptions on South West Trains, are voters likely to believe that more privatisation is the answer to London's transport problems? The Tube is only part of the network; it needs to be considered alongside buses, roads, railways and the river too, as part of an integrated approach to London's infrastructure. London is crying out for strategic management in this and many other respects, but an ill-considered sell-off is typical of the present Government's piecemeal approach to London.

Many government publications declare that London is ideally placed for the new millennium. This is true in certain respects, but it cannot be said of the city's system of government. London government baffles foreigners, with its unique lack of a city-wide authority, and bewilders its citizens with a gaggle of acronyms that are meaningless to most people.

I have lived and worked in London all my adult life, and witnessed extensive reorganisation in local government, most of it unnecessary. Too many times in the past, the politics of government in London has been dominated by infighting and central government hubris. The London City Council, the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority were all abolished, rather than reformed, by Conservative Governments. What we need now is a return to London-wide government with as little disruption as possible. Labour's plans for a new Greater London Authority (GLA) offer this. It is what the opinion polls say the overwhelming majority of Londoners want. In any case, after a period of consultation, Labour will give the public their say in a referendum on London government – a choice about their future which the Conservatives have denied them.

A new authority will give Londoners and London a much-needed "voice". It will allow a democratic expression of the capital's identity. The packed halls for last year's Architecture Foundation and Evening Standard debates on the future of London show the depth of feeling on this. London needs to make its own case in Whitehall. And when London bids for major world sporting events in the future, such as the Olympics, the world needs to know who represents public opinion in the metropolis.

The GLA will have a clearly defined remit and will be answerable to the people of London, the police and the fire service. It will be a streamlined authority, concerned with strategic problems such as land use, environmental planning, economic development and above all transport. It will deal with the capital's intolerable congestion and pollution, developing a city-wide plan for housing and urban regeneration, and setting and monitoring standards of environmental improvement. This entails democratising the regional quangos and providing an accountable authority for the Metropolitan Police, rather than the present system of reporting directly to the Home Secretary – a proposal with which the Commissioner and his senior colleagues at Scotland Yard agree. It will be much more open than the present system, in which responsibility lies with a secretive and obscure government Office for London, of which few people have even heard.

**T**he new authority will work in partnership with the other agents of government in the capital. It will have no concurrent powers with the 33 boroughs, so avoiding the problems of the old GLC. Since the boroughs appear to be carrying out their tasks adequately at present, they will carry on with them. Some Tories raise the spectre of increased bureaucracy, but far from increasing bureaucracy, the new authority will reduce it, by rationalising the current patchwork of joint boards, voluntary committees and other complex arrangements. It need not incur any extra expense for London's taxpayers; indeed, it might save money.

For the sake of administrative simplicity, the authority could simply cover the old GLC area, which coincides with the London boroughs. For the sake of democracy it should be directly elected. Questions about the electoral system and the structure of the council are secondary. Whichever voting system is chosen, and whether representation is based on the boroughs or on European constituencies, the number of councillors should be small.

The people of London should be allowed a part in shaping their future. They need their identity and civic pride restored. They need their democratic voice to be heard again and London-wide services to be run properly. Tony Blair has said that an elected mayor would be a good idea: a further voice working with the GLA to speak for London. As a world city, London needs to be able to compete on equal terms with Paris, New York and Tokyo, each of which has its own city-wide tier of government. The Conservatives' plan is to sell off the Underground and hope that all will be well. Labour's plan is to offer Londoners a say. If the millennium is to mark the renewal of London, it should also mark the renewal of democracy in our capital city. Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the House of Lords.

## Take notes

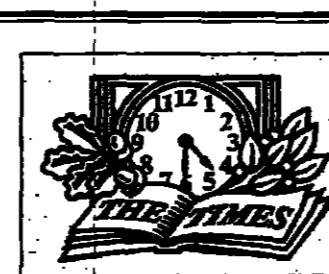
THE Bank of England is preparing to print foreign currency for the first time. Together with the printers De La Rue, it has put in a bid for the contract to produce 3.6 billion 100 and 500 rupee notes for the Reserve Bank of India at its factory in Debden, Essex.

For more than 300 years the Bank has worked exclusively for the British Crown, printing notes for Britain and the Empire. But it could soon be printing money from South African rands to Cambodian riels. The Bank and De La Rue will be in competition with 17 other international consortiums for the Indian contract.

"This was an opportunity in the marketplace for us to test our selves against the real commercial markets," says Nigel Bevitt-Smith, manager at the Bank's print works, in an interview with *PrintWeek* magazine. "This is the first time we've been able to enter an international tender and the result will definitely have a bearing on our future."

## In the swim

MICHAEL HESELTINE has donated a blue rubber flipper to



though more in a Devon-mists-and-shanties than an EU-quotas sort of way.

## Drink on

THE tall spirit measures of Richard Burton live on among the Welsh actors currently rehearsing at the Donmar Warehouse in London. Michael Sheen, a Welshman himself is directing *A Bad Finger*, a new play about five men living in a Swansea junk shop. "Many of the cast are old friends from Wales," he says. "They get on too well and tend to prefer drinking



to rehearsing. After the Welsh Baftas, I thought I was going to have to bail them out of police cells, never mind dragging them into rehearsal."

## Last toast

CHELTENHAM yesterday was toasting Louise Cooper-Joyce, an unassuming Irish lady who bought the Gold Cup winner Mr Mulligan two years ago for a mere £18,000 on behalf of its triumphant owners, Michael and Gerry Worcester. Her very presence at the racecourse was a victory.

She was so nervous on the day before the race that she drank – at a conservative estimate – three bottles of champagne. She then got lost on her way to local lodgings. "We had English navigators," she explained. Yesterday it was strictly water for lunch with champagne only after Mr Mulligan came in.

## Settling down

QUIET has fallen upon the nation's stately homes with the announcement that Lady Theresa Manners, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, is to marry. In the mid 1980s, Lady Theresa made news when she was caught in flagrante with a young man in a motorway fast lane.



Modern Manners

She then donned tight leather dresses to sing for the upper-crust rock band The Business Connection, while supplementing her income by working in a Chelsea Wharf restaurant. She is to marry a Canadian doctor in June.

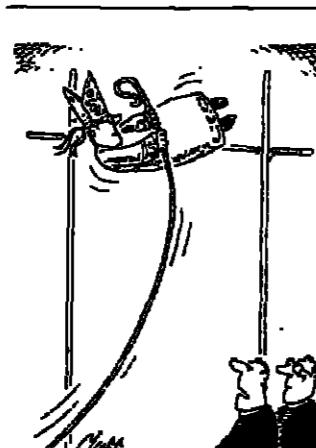
• Sir Edmund Hillary has chosen the coat of arms that will adorn his Knight of the Garter stall in St George's Chapel, Windsor: a limewood carving of a New Zealand kiwi holding an axe.

P.H.S.

## Net result

DAMIENTHIRST, pickler, and Keith Allen, actor, have together bought a fishing boat. Allen is so taken with the fisherman's life that he turned up at yesterday's British Council International New Playwriting Awards at the National Theatre in orange waterproofs. "Just back from the Devon coast," he explained. "Been fixing up the boat I own with Damien."

Hirst, who is better known for dunking fish in formaldehyde than for netting them, is said to be serious about his new hobby.



"Well that's Runcie over. Can Carey do better?"



## CALM AND CONCILIATION

Middle East leaders must use tragedy to lower tensions

The shooting of seven children is numbing under any circumstance. On the first anniversary of the Dunblane massacre, the horrific events on the Israeli-Jordanian border yesterday have even greater resonance here in Britain.

But there in the Middle East, the motive was politics. Relations between Israel and its neighbours have been fraught since the exchange of letters between King Hussein and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. When this correspondence is so swiftly followed by the savage actions of a single soldier, it is hard to see mere coincidence. The instinct of many in Israel will have been to regard the King's reference to a "very strong chance of violence" as provocation, not prediction.

That would be understandable but deeply unfair. The King's missive was one more of sorrow than anger. Its dispatch and subsequent deliberate profile have, however, proved unhelpful. There were other and better means in which the same sentiment could have been conveyed.

The manner in which Jordan responded to the outrage yesterday should have gone some way to calm Israeli emotion. No excuses were offered. King Hussein expressed his condolences in strong and sincere terms and then abandoned his scheduled journey to Washington and the White House. The appearance of Crown Prince Hassan at the site of the slaughter reinforced that message. The firm words of the Jordanian Prime Minister, Abdul Karim Kababiti, were fully appropriate to the moment.

These may be symbolic moves; but the Middle East has been short of such symbols recently. The peace process has never been less than complex and convulsive. In the past two weeks a particularly poisonous atmosphere has developed. The challenge for political leaders is to recognise that tragedy will become all too commonplace unless much greater efforts are made to promote conciliation. A critical part of that cause is self-restraint in rhetoric. The decision last

month of the Israeli Government to proceed with the construction of 6,500 settlements in east Jerusalem was certainly contentious. But it was not a "declaration of war" as described by some Palestinian figures, nor would it "bury the peace process for all time" as King Hussein's letter suggested.

There are numerous steps each side could take to lower tensions. Yassir Arafat should postpone indefinitely his international meeting planned for this weekend in Gaza. If he will not, those who have accepted invitations to attend should now reconsider. Mr Arafat must also drop his frequent threat to proclaim *unilaterally* an independent Palestinian state. Such a move truly might bury the peace process. King Hussein could substitute a summit meeting with Mr Netanyahu for his cancelled appointment with President Clinton.

The Israeli leader too has gestures he can make without sacrificing principle. He could abandon plans to close the east Jerusalem offices of four organisations with ties to the Palestinian National Authority. His Government should liberalise the airspace arrangements between Gaza and the West Bank that have so aggrieved King Hussein. The Cabinet might also consider whether the beginning of the much disputed housing project could be delayed for the moment. The formula by which Israel intends to implement the Hebron agreement could be outlined and explained rather better.

None of these measures can mitigate the difficult negotiations that must precede any ultimate agreement. A premature attempt to rush those talks before broader confidence has been built would doom them to failure. An intimate relationship of trust between Israel and Jordan is fundamental to that outcome. Extremists on all sides will — as has again been demonstrated with the blood of innocents — do their utmost to destroy it. Middle East leaders are well aware of that reality. They must moderate their public words, do their best to becalm the political mood, and resume the path of dialogue.

## HOLE IN THE BANK

NatWest should listen to the Bank of England

This year, according to City estimates, some £3 billion — equivalent to 0.5 per cent of GDP — will be paid out in bonuses to a small number of bankers, traders and fund managers. This enormous transfer helps to explain the surge in prices of family houses in smart London postal districts and Georgian rectories within weekend distance of the capital. But it also raises worries about whether the structure of bonuses encourages City employees to take dangerous risks with their banks' money.

Yesterday the hole in NatWest's accounts as a result of "mispricing" by an options trader widened from £50 million to £90 million. This loss will be reduced a little because some £8 million of bonuses that have been promised but not yet paid will be withdrawn, and there are £5 million of provisions to set against the losses. But the difference between the £8 million clawed back from employees and the £77 million that shareholders will have to bear shows how unevenly the risk of trading falls on employer and employee.

Indeed, as a recent Bank of England paper on "Remuneration and Risk" points out, bonuses can often act as a perverse incentive on traders. Employees in effect have limited liability: if they lose a lot of their employers' money, the worst that can happen to them is that they have to forgo their bonus and rely on their basic salary alone, or they lose their job. The banks for which they work, however, may have to absorb many millions of pounds of losses.

The "upside" rewards for the employee can be enormous. Profit-linked bonuses are becoming ever more popular. In theory, this

should benefit both sides: employees are encouraged to make as much money as possible both for themselves and their firms. In practice, the temptation is to take excessive risks.

The fear of dismissal can also work perversely. If a trader has lost his employer a lot of money, he may decide to take bigger and bigger positions in an attempt to get back to profit. He may feel that he has little to lose and everything to gain by gambling with the bank's capital. After all, he will not be asked to compensate the employer for losses. But he may save his job.

Proper supervision of traders ought to limit the risky positions they can take. But, as a succession of losses has shown from Barings through to NatWest, managers have often failed to spot problems before they become disasters. In complex derivative markets such as futures, options and swaps, the traders tend to be more knowledgeable than their ultimate bosses. They may succeed in covering up losses by manipulating prices or computer entries without their superiors noticing the irregularities.

Two reforms are clearly needed. First, control systems should be improved so that managers can keep a proper grip on their traders. Secondly, bonus structures need to be more sophisticated: based on more than simple profits, and deferred so that employers can claw back money if losses are made. Instinctively, banks may be reluctant to do anything that could alienate their star traders. But the examples of NatWest and others should make them understand that several good years of profits can be quickly swallowed up by one black hole.

## JUSTICE DELAYED

The taxpayer is not getting value from the Law Commission

This Government has not been a legislative laggard. The Home Secretary and Lord Chancellor have been activist ministers determined to overhaul the creaking machinery of the law to serve the citizen better. There is, however, still a paper mountain of unfinished legal business which this Parliament will bequeath to its successor and which even the most cautious jurist would consider worth placing on the statute book.

As our Legal Correspondent reports, the Law Commission has produced a steady flow of Bills designed to bring order to the ragged edges of the legal system. Most deserve speedy implementation: all deserve scrutiny. The neglect of the commission's labours does justice, and the taxpayer, a disservice.

The Law Commission is a creation of the Wilson era but governments of every colour have benefited from the work done by its lawyers to bring the law into line with contemporary life. Like Kipling's Tommy Atkins, though, it has been taken for granted save in emergencies. It recommended a change in the law to deal with mortgage fraud in 1994 which was broadly welcomed. Implementation, however, had to wait until after a House of Lords decision in 1996 which drew stark attention to the existing difficulty of prosecuting mortgage fraudsters. The problem was addressed with the Theft (Amendment) Act which became law

in December 1996, but by that stage many fraudsters had already eluded justice.

The commission currently has four proposals worthy of speedy scrutiny. It has been waiting since 1993 to see its suggested reform of the law on offences against the person, which is governed by a statute from 1861. Suitably framed, the commission's draft legislation could have been used to prosecute stalkers whom the law has found it difficult to tackle. Proposals to reform the law on manslaughter to allow prosecutions for corporate killing would bring Britain into line with other jurisdictions.

A suggested alteration to the law of contract to confer rights on third parties would smooth commercial life. It could allow a guarantee which covers the sale of one product such as a car to be transferred in turn to a subsequent buyer. Finally, reform of the obscure law on chancery repairs would remove a hidden pitfall in property transactions which can land unwary rural buyers with five-figure bills for the renovation of nearby churches.

The law of unintended consequences may befall some of the Law Commission's suggestions. That was certainly the case with their recent family law reforms. But Parliament, once bitten, should not shy away from necessary change. Space should still be cleared by the next government for the undramatic Bills that can make a difference.

## Questioning need for enlarged Nato

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, The Foreign Secretary's apology for Nato enlargement (article, March 10) is strong on dogmatic assertion but weak on reasoned argument (letters, February 12, 17, 26, March 3, 6).

He states that if Nato were not extended "the countries of Central Europe would fear that Russia was able to reassert its hegemony over them". The same, if true, would apply still more strongly to Finland and the Baltic states. Why are they not seen as initial candidates for admission?

Without extension we would be "creating once again a line down the middle of the map of Europe". With extension we would simply move that line a few hundred miles further to the east.

Without enlargement "new regional alliances might spring up". What on earth would be wrong with that — especially if Nato develops, as Mr Rifkind suggests that it will, "a dynamic partnership with countries to its east for practical co-operation and political consultation"?

"Neither the new Nato nor its expansion poses a threat to Russia". That surely is for the Russians to say. After all, we were taught during the Cold War to base our policies on the capabilities of our adversaries rather than their intentions.

To take account of Russian susceptibilities is not to accept their veto over our policies. It is simply to recognise that there can never be stability in Europe unless the Russians feel secure, and to ride roughshod over their susceptibilities is not a very sensible way to guarantee the security of their neighbours to the west.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HOWARD.

The Old Farm,  
Eastbury,  
Hungerford, Berkshire.

March 10.

From Sir Frank Cooper

Sir, The hard sell for the enlargement of Nato, led by the United States, needs to be challenged and fully debated. There must be no question of being railroaded into it. It is of fundamental importance to Nato's future and our future security.

The Foreign Secretary's article argues that enlarging Nato — a softer, diplomatic word for expanding — is a necessary step in making the whole of Europe as secure as Western Europe. What is the whole of Europe? Does it include all EU aspirants? What reason is there to believe the present members of Nato will be any more secure?

Will enlargement not create new political and military problems and difficulties? What are the ground rules for joining? What is the impact on the Western European Union?

It is essential to know the practical consequences of enlargement. A few questions. Nato works by consensus. Will this continue? Will the sheer size of an enlarged Nato significantly diminish its efficiency? What happens militarily if one nation disagrees with the others? Are the forces of any joining country to be integrated into the command and military force structure, including military headquarters? What about common logistics, supply chains and force inter-operability? Is there to be a collective air defence system? How much will it cost? Who foots the bill?

We must look to the future. Nato was built out of a clearly perceived need and at great but justifiable cost. Surely we now need fewer assertions, more information and more answers before decisions are taken? Let us know what we might be getting into.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK COOPER.

34 Camden Park Road,  
Chislehurst, Kent.

March 10.

From Mr Bryan C. Diamond

Sir, Ms Judith Da Fano's remarks about stopping Jewish men from thanking God in their prayers that they are born men rather than women (letter, March 5) should not be directed at any rabbi of a Liberal synagogue.

Since the inception of Liberal Judaism, a feature of our observances has been the equality of women and men, and the prayer to which she objected has never been advocated by any of our leaders and is not included in our liturgy.

From the first meeting called by the Hon Lily Montagu in 1902, it was resolved that a liturgy should be drawn up which contained "only those readings and prayers which combined historic interest with the spiritual needs of the actual worshippers".

The prayer books produced by the Jewish Religious Union, then by the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues all meet this criterion.

Yours sincerely,

BRYAN DIAMOND  
(Archivist)

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue,  
Flat 2, 80 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3.  
March 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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## Doctors' HIV tests 'a waste of time'

From Dr J. K. Oates

Sir, I fear the suggestion in your headline (Medical Briefing, March 8) that all British doctors should "submit" to HIV testing would be a waste of time and money if the object of the exercise is to prevent patients worrying about being infected with HIV by their doctors.

Dr Stuttaford has told us, correctly, that as far as is known, only two examples of this taking place have been verified worldwide, so the actual risks in the UK must be very slight. There are however still going to be some patients who are worried about the risks of acquiring such a deadly disease.

Once a negative test for HIV has been reported on an individual, this can generally be taken as proof that they are free from infection. However, the individual concerned could become infected within days of having been blood taken, or have been in the early stages of HIV disease when the standard tests may be negative. To exclude all these eventualities would mean repeated and regular testing of all doctors.

The costs of such an exercise would be considerable and raise many non-medical problems. Overall the situation is very different to hepatitis B which is much commoner than HIV infection and, more importantly, much more infectious.

Furthermore, hepatitis B testing allows protective vaccination to be offered to those found to be lacking in

immunity, something which is not yet available in HIV infection.

Yours faithfully,  
J. K. OATES,  
75 Glengall Road,  
Woodford Green, Essex.  
March 8.

From Professor Michael W. Adler

Sir, Doctors are at much greater risk of HIV infection from their patients than the other way round. The call for screening of doctors, be it UK nationals or those coming from high endemic areas, makes people feel good and as if something is being done, but it is illegal and falsely reassuring. It could also lead to the call for doctors for all their patients to be screened, which would be equally misplaced and a huge waste of resources.

The correct way forward is for doctors to adhere to the very clear-cut GMC guidance which requires them, if they suspect or know that they are HIV-infected, to be screened, and put themselves under medical care. An infected healthcare worker would then be required to cease carrying out procedures that may put a patient at risk.

The costs of such an exercise would be considerable and raise many non-medical problems. Overall the situation is very different to hepatitis B which is much commoner than HIV infection and, more importantly, much more infectious.

Furthermore, hepatitis B testing allows protective vaccination to be offered to those found to be lacking in

recognise the validity of marriages contracted in a register office.

The function of a priest at a church wedding is to act as registrar, to lead prayers for the couple on behalf of the congregation and to invoke God's blessing. The two parties are themselves "ministers of the sacrament" and do not need the presence of a priest to validate their marriage.

Some time ago the Church of England determined to find a way in which, under some circumstances, divorce could be remarried in church but it has so far failed to produce an acceptable formula. In the meantime the distinction between marriage and remarrying is made by the legal ceremony taking place in a register office for those marrying after divorce.

Thus the Bishop of Birmingham's decision to marry in a register office and subsequently to take part with his wife in a service of prayer and dedication (report, March 4) accords with the current position of the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BARTON,  
Diocesan Office,  
175 Harborne Park Road,  
Harborne, Birmingham.

## Rules of cohabitation

From Mr W. D. Conolly

Sir, Mr Hugh G. Meekan's letter (March 10) defending informal partnerships against the formalities of marriage confuses the nature and functions of the State and of society.

The institution of marriage is recognised by the State, which arranges the formalities, as also the legal results of its termination: but it is society which recognises marriage and causes the State to formalise it and its results.

Mr Meekan's "partnership" may well last until ended by the death of one of the parties. The survivor, especially if there are children, will quickly experience the legal consequences of the difference between the two forms of association.

Yours faithfully,  
W. D. CONOLLY,  
3 The Slade,  
Froxfield, Petersfield, Hampshire.

From the Archdeacon of Aston

Sir, Contrary to what William Rees-Mogg says ("Stand up for bastards", March 6) the Church of England does

## Devolution debate

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, Sir Harry Hinsley (letter, March 6) is right in stating that the logical solution of the devolution problem is a federal structure, but his assertion that reference has not been made to this obvious consideration in recent years is wrong.

This was the essence of the proposal contained in the Memorandum of Dissent to the Kilbrandon Commission on the Constitution which reported in 1973, presented by the late Lord Crowther-Hunt and myself. Norman Hunt prepared the detailed constitutional proposals and I analysed their economic implications.

We must look to the future. Nato was built out of a clearly perceived need and at great but justifiable cost. Surely we now need fewer assertions, more information and more answers before decisions are taken? Let us know what we might be getting into.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN PEACOCK,  
146/4 Whitehouse Lane, Edinburgh.

March 6.

Consequences of federalism for the overall size of government, which has led me and many like-minded liberals to regard privatisation as at least a partial substitute for devolution.

Moreover



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 13: Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was received by The Queen.

Her Excellency Mrs Eva Noybrow was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Austria to the Court of St James's. Mr Nowotny was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Señor Andris Rozenfeld and Senator Rozenfeld were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his post as Ambassador from the United Mexican States to the Court of St James's.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Christopher Battiscombe (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), Mr François Gordon (the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria), Mr David Snowell (the Republic of Senegal) and Mr Richard Wilkinson (the Republic of Venezuela).

Mrs Battiscombe, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Snowell and Mrs Wilkinson were also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning called on the Governor of Okinawa and afterwards

## Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Alexander, former Vice-Chancellor, Stirling University, 75; Miss Pam Ayres, poet, 50; Professor Sir Michael Berry, FRS, physicist, 56; Mr Ian Bruce, MP, 50; Mr Michael Caine, actor, 64; Mr Jasper Carrott, comedian, 52; Mr Billy Crystal, actor and comedian, 50; Professor Sir Colin Dillery, professor of medicine, 66; Mr Alan Elliott, former Chief Constable, Cumbria, 55; Mr John Eton, company director, 73; Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Graham, 62; the Earl of Halifax, 53; Sir Philip Holland, former MP, 80; Mr Tom Iremonger, former MP, 81; Lord Keyes, 78; Sir Gavin Laird, trade unionist, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 75; Mr John McCallum, actor, 79; Lord Marsh, 69; Sir Eric Norris, diplomat, 79; Mr Bill Owen, actor, 82; Sir Richard Parsons, diplomat, 69; Dame Betty Paterson, former chairman, NW Thames Regional Health Authority, 81; General Paul Rader (Salvation Army), 63; Miss Tessa Sanderson, athlete and broadcaster, 41; Mr W.M. Sillery, Headmaster, Belfast Royal Academy, 56; Mr A.D. Smith, President, Magdalene College, Oxford, 59; Miss Rita Tushingham, actress, 55.

Mr Battiscombe, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Snowell and Mrs Wilkinson were also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning called on the Governor of Okinawa and afterwards

gave a Press Conference for World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Okinawa at the Harbourview Hotel.

This afternoon The Duke of Edinburgh departed from Okinawa for Tokyo.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 13: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Oman.

Mrs William Nurney and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**

March 13: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning opened Carodan Terrain Limited, Aylesford, Kent and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent (Lord Kingsdown).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Kent Training and Enterprise Council's new building, Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent.

The Duke of Kent, Trustee, this evening attended the Science Museum's dinner, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**

March 13: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop at 130 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey, at 3.15.

The Duke of York, as Patron of the Badminton Association of England, will attend the All England Badminton Championships at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, at 7.15.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will give a reception at Buckingham Palace at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit John Scott Nichol, Old Statton Close, Sheephead, Loughborough, at 10.35; will visit Paul James Knitwear, Hill Street, Barwell, Leicester, 11.35; will visit Leicester General Hospital to open the new radiology department at Gwendolen Road at 12.35; and will open a new area police station at Keyham Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire, at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Year of Engineering Success, will attend the launch of the National Week of Science Engineering and Technology at Imperial College at 10.30.

## Lectures

The Bristol Society The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Sir John Wills, Bt, and the High Sheriff of Bristol, Mr George Ferguson, were present at a lecture given for the Society by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chief Ernesto Akyoku, Con. at the Council House last night. St John Hartnett, Chairman of the Society, presided and Mr Peter Wood, of Abel Domèque Pic, gave a vote of thanks. Allied Domèque Pic hosted a supper afterwards.

**Marketers' Company**

The Marketers' Company Annual City Lecture was delivered by Sir Mark Weinberg last night at Chartered Accountants' Hall. Mr David Thomas, Master, presided. Mr David Kaye, Dean of the City University Business School, also spoke.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Russel Simon William Ferguson Toaking to be a Circuit Judge. He will be assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuits.

**Reception**

British Chamber of Commerce for Italy

The Italian Ambassador was the guest of honour at the inaugural reception of the London branch of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy held last night in Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. Mr David Ashby, MP, was the host.

**Service dinner**

RN College Greenwich

Commander J.M.C. Maughan, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a mess guest night dinner held yesterday at the college. Mr Harold 'Dicky' Bird was the principal guest.

**Church news**

Appointments include:

The Rev John Sloman, Curate, St Michael, Huyton, to be Priest-in-Charge, St John the Divine, Fairhill (Liverpool).

The Rev Andrew St John, Assistant Curate, St John, to be Team Vicar, Emmanuel and St Mark, Bestwood, Team Ministry at St Mark's, Bestwood.

The Rev Michael Starkey, Assistant Curate, St John the Evangelist, Brownswood Park (London); to be priest-in-charge.

The Rev Paul Stephens, Curate, South Moulton group; to be Rector, Norton Fitzwarren, and Anglican Chaplain at St Margaret Clitherow, Northamptonshire Voluntary Aided Secondary School, Toton (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Andrew Tyler, formerly NSM, now Curate, Caversham (Oxford); to be Priest-in-charge, St Giles, Norwich.

The Rev Brenda Wallace, curate, Upton upon Severn, Worcester, Mounthill, with Birchamore and Farnham to be curate Hutton All Saints' with St Peter (Chelmsford).

## Dinners

### Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was the host at a dinner held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in honour of Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General of Saudi Arabia. The other guests were:

Dr Musa'ib bin Mohammed Al-Alimi, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia; Major-General Nasser A Al-Arfal, Major-General Abdurrahman, Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prince Faisal bin Saud bin Mohammed bin Khalid bin Heitham, Dr Ali Laftah Al-abari, Brigadier-General Ibrahim M A Al-Amro, Brigadier-General Daieekah A Al-Wagdi, Brigadier-General Mousa N Al-Mafsi, Captain Nasser M Al-Masri, Colonel Abdullatif Saad bin Ali Al-Hussein, Brigadier-General Abdumohsen Hamad Al-Bassam, Dr Abdullah Al-Nasseri, Dr Ali Al-Ghamdi, Mr Ali Al-Saif, Mr Ali Al-Saif.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, the Hon William Hague, MP, the Hon Michael Spence, MP, Mr James Arbuthnot, MP, Mr Richard Page, MP, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Lord Prior of Bramall, KG, Sir Alan Fawcett, MP, Sir David Steel, MP, Sir John Major, MP, Sir John Patten, MP, Sir John Tinkler, MP, Sir John Vass, MP, Sir John Whiting, MP, Sir Jonathan Aitken, MP, Mr Eddie George, Sir James Craig, Sir Alan Curbishley, Sir David Clegg, Sir Ralph Robins, Sir David Lee, Sir Richard Evans, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sir John Chilcot, MP, Mr Tim Smith, MP, Mr Graham Greene, Mr Mark Moody-Stewart, Mr Tony Blair, Mr Tony Stansfield, Mr Keith Wileman, Dr Farhan Nizami, Professor R A McNell, Mr Michael Portillo, Mr Alan Parker, Sir Michael Peter Ing, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Lieutenant-General Sir John Foley, Mr John Green, Mr Charles Masefield, Mr John Ward, MP, Lord McColl, Mr John Holmes, Mr Philip Barton.

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Miss Melissa Cork, gave a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bell of City Livery Companies and their ladies.

Some Members of the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some members of the Court of Common Council and High Officers of the Corporation of London and their consorts attended.

The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speakers. Among others present were:

Admiral the Hon Sir Peter Lomax, Sir Greville and Lady Spratt, the Deacon of St Paul's, the Master and Wardens of the Clothworkers' Company, Mr and Mrs Christopher Ballendean, Mr Peter Forrester, Mr and Mrs John Howorth and Mr David Watt.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, presided at the monthly dinner held last night at the Café Royal. Mr Peter Ford, Chairman of London Transport, was the principal guest.

**Cranfield University**

The Duke of Kent, Visitor, presided at a dinner held on Wednesday after the Annual Meeting of the Court of Cranfield University. Lord King Norton, who had earlier announced his retirement as Chancellor, was the guest of honour.

**Princess Caroline of Monaco touring Lyons yesterday**



Princess Caroline of Monaco touring Lyons yesterday

## Forthcoming marriages

### Major N.G.C. Strachwitz

### Hamilton

### and Miss J.H. Wilson

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Strachwitz Hamilton, of Dorset, and Jessica, younger daughter of the Hon. George and Mrs Wilson, of Hampshire.

### Mr J.J. Robertson

### and Mrs R.S. Lowe

The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of the late Major Ian McKay Robertson and of the Hon. Mrs Robertson, of Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire, and Rosamund, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Evans, of Plymstock, Devon.

### Mr G.H. Bennett

### and Miss C.A. Besser

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Mr Dudley Bennett, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Susan Leighton of Maida Vale, London, and Rachael, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Broughton, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

### Mr P.M.K. Russell

### and Miss S.M. Ashdown

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bott, of Benington Lordship, Herfordshire, and Susanna, second daughter of Mr Laurie Conner, of Redlap, Devon, and Mrs John Pilley, of Trotton, West Sussex.

### Mr M. Shaw

### and Miss D. Cooper

The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Harry Shaw, of Cheam, Surrey, and Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cooper, of Rayleigh, Essex.

### Mr A. Stevens

### and Miss T.A. Ladbrooke

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs David Stevens, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, and Esther Jane, elder daughter of Mrs Marion King and the late Mr Timothy King, of Melrose, Roxburghshire.

### Mr M.W.J. Hawes

### and Miss E.M. Lockwood

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Streton, of Nab Wood, West Yorkshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rutherford, of Catmose End, Saltford, Bristol.

### Mr R.K. Hillier

### and Miss A.J. Angles

The engagement is announced between Roger, only son of Mr and Mrs Keith Hillier, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.T. Baden-Powell, of Upton Scudamore, Wiltshire.

### Mr J.K. Stretton

### and Miss A. Rutherford

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Stretton, of Nab Wood, West Yorkshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rutherford, of Catmose End, Saltford, Bristol.

### Mr D.R.N. Ely

### and Miss T.A. Ladbrooke

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Stevens, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, and Esther Jane, elder daughter of Mrs Marion King and the late Mr Timothy King, of Melrose, Roxburghshire.

### Mr C. Williams

### and Miss J. Williams

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Stretton, of Nab Wood, West Yorkshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rutherford, of Catmose End, Saltford, Bristol.

### Mr D. Gossling

### and Miss J. Williams

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Stretton, of Nab Wood, West Yorkshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rutherford, of Catmose End, Saltford, Bristol.

### Mr J. Walker

### and Miss J. Williams

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## Memorial services

**SIR BASIL NIELD**  
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Hugh Jones at a memorial service for Sir Basil Edward Nield, a Master of the Bench and Past Treasurer of the Inner Temple, held on Wednesday at The Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of The Temple, officiated.

Sir Anthony Hidden read the lesson and Mr Simon Finch, great nephew, read from John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Sir Patrick Russell gave an address.

## OBITUARIES

## MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT COOK

**Major-General Robert Cook**, Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Army, 1989-92 and Director General, Federation of the Electronics Industry since 1993, died of motor-neurone disease on February 25 aged 57. He was born June 18, 1939.

**B**ob Cook became the Army's Signal Officer-in-Chief as the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet threat to Europe collapsed. The Ministry of Defence had set in hand the strategic studies of *Options for Change*. The Treasury, however, had hijacked the work and turned it into a cost-cutting exercise to garner the largest possible "peace dividend" while the going was good. Cook and his fellow arms directors were soon faced with the task of trying to meet Treasury demands for cuts, with one hand while conducting the Gulf War with the other.

Cook was the right man to fight the Royal Signals' corner at this crucial time. He was blessed with a sharp intellect and a real understanding of the rapidly advancing electronic technologies in the fields of command, control and information systems in war; he could also express their benefits lucidly to the Army Board. He had a robust personality, was a dynamic commander and an able staff officer — all of which enabled him to ensure that Royal Signals did not lose out in the struggle for resources within the Treasury's draconian financial limits.

Taking a personal grip on reshaping his corps, he wrote a strategy paper on future personnel and control structures for the Army in the post-Cold War era against which Royal Signals' units could be justified. This turned out to be a remarkably perceptive analysis, written at a time when there was no certainty about the future size and shape of the Army. His work, reinforced by ongoing experience in providing the Army's communications during the Gulf War, laid the foundations of today's Royal Signals' order of battle.

Concurrently with *Options*



for Change, he was embroiled in the *Review of the Training Base*. He fought, perhaps over-doggedly, on behalf of his and the other engineering corps (RE and REME) for the retention of their apprentice and junior leaders regiments, recognising that their disbandment would seriously damage recruiting of high calibre young men (as has, indeed, proved to be the case).

Sadly, his outspoken opposition to these and other changes may have played a part in his not being appointed CB on his retirement — in spite of his invaluable services to the Army and his corps over some forty years. Ironically, he heard just before he died of the return, in modified form, of

both apprentice and junior leader training.

The son of an army officer serving in India, Robert Francis Leonard Cook was initially brought up in what is now Pakistan. He went to school at Karachi Grammar School and then, back in England, at Welbeck College and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1959.

He showed his pronounced scientific and technological bent early at the School of Signals and at the Military College of Science at Shrivenham, where he gained a BSc in physics in 1962, and, after a further two years' research work, an MSc. Subsequently, he became a Fellow

of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Physics.

His first technical staff appointment came in 1975 on the project management staff of the procurement executive within the MoD. Promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1977, he returned to Shrivenham as an instructor in telecommunications, information systems and electronic warfare.

In 1978 he went to Germany to take command of 4th Division's HQ and Signal Regiment at Herford. At the end of his command, he was given a change of scene in 1981, when he was appointed to the logistics planning staff of HQ BAOR, handling theatre war

plans and British lines of communication.

His respite from technology was short-lived: promoted colonel in 1982, he joined the operational requirements staff in the MoD where he was responsible for stating the Army's development requirements for future communications, intelligence and surveillance equipment up to and beyond the year 2000.

He was soon able to put Whitehall theory into practice in Germany when, in 1983, he was promoted brigadier with the two-hatted appointments of Commander Communications, 1st (British) Corps, and Brigade Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, which he was instrumental in forming. His outstanding work was the introduction of the then state-of-the-art Pumaigan area communication system and the early electronic data handling system, named Wavel.

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After he became Signal Officer-in-Chief, a fresh reorganisation within the Defence Ministry led to his taking on additional co-ordinating responsibilities as Director General of Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems (Army) in 1990. Retiring from the Army in 1992, he threw himself into his customary energy into a second career as Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry: he was building a reputation for sound leadership and administrative drive among the leading electronics firms when his health gave way.

He married Gillian (Jilly) Margaret Lowry in 1961. His wife, a son and two daughters survive him.

## PROFESSOR COLIN SMITH

**Colin Smith**, Professor of Spanish, Cambridge University, 1975-90, died of cancer on February 16 aged 69. He was born on September 17, 1927.

**COLIN SMITH** was a leading authority on medieval Spanish literature. His publications on the *Poema de mio Cid* profoundly altered the way in which that epic is viewed. His edition of 1972, based closely on the manuscript, challenged longstanding orthodoxy. Supported by the work of others that soon appeared, it set new norms and cleared the way for radical rethinking.

Smith was at the forefront of this through a series of articles which culminated in *The Making of the Poema de mio Cid* (1983), in which his view of the poem as the product of a single learned author in a particular cultural milieu is set out most fully.

But perhaps Smith's most prominent achievement was the *Collins Spanish Dictionary*. Under his editorship it marked a major advance in Spanish-English dictionaries, with its wide-ranging inclusion of contemporary language, its lack of pedantry and its capacity to provide the practical help that users seek in such a work. Smith's direction of subsequent updated and improved editions ensured that its position remained unchallenged.

At the end of 1985, he attended the Nato Defence College in Rome, and then became secretary to the Nato Military Committee in Brussels. It was an exciting time to be in the Nato corridors of power. Events were pointing to the collapse of communism, and the Nato Chiefs of Staff were working in overdrive. Despite the pressures in Brussels, Cook managed to find time to gain a Master of Philosophy degree in Strategic Studies with the University of Wales in 1989.

After he became Signal Officer-in-Chief, a fresh reorganisation within the Defence Ministry led to his taking on additional co-ordinating responsibilities as Director General of Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems (Army) in 1990. Retiring from the Army in 1992, he threw himself into his customary energy into a second career as Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry: he was building a reputation for sound leadership and administrative drive among the leading electronics firms when his health gave way.

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work on the *Poema de mio Cid*, Smith also published studies on other areas of Spanish culture, from medieval to modern, from chronicles in Latin to short stories in Galician. His distinction was recognised in corresponding membership of the Real Academia de la Lengua Española and in his appointment by the Spanish Crown as Comendador de número de la Orden de Isabel la Católica.

Remarkably, Smith was also an outstanding scholar in another field, British place-names. He had inherited his father's interest in archaeology and as a young boy he had taken part in several digs. Besides his several articles, his tome on *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (1979), with A. L. F. Rivet, was a major contribution that remains a standard work of reference to this day.

Brimming with energy, Smith was an introverted scholar. He contributed greatly to his various universities, to St Catharine's College and to academe in many other ways. One of the most influential was his work for the *Modern Language Review*, the language journal of the Modern Humanities Research Association. He was the journal's Hispanic editor, 1974-81, and its general editor, 1976-81. This work and his great distinction

as a scholar were rightly recognised last year, when he was the honorary president of the Modern Humanities Research Association for 1996.

He was a popular colleague, lecturer and tutor. At St Catharine's College, to whose welfare he was dedicated, he unfailingly offered time to those who needed it, along with a copa of the college's sherry at the appropriate hour of the day. His infectious good humour and sense of fun enlivened many occasions, and found other outlets in his production of cartoons, memoirs of a Cambridge bedder, pseudo-medieval ballads and the like.

And, as if this were not enough, Smith pursued his principal hobby to a considerable level of expertise. He was a keen amateur entomologist with his own fine collection of moths. His knowledge of them was encyclopaedic, and it was a matter of considerable satisfaction to him that, while on a field trip in southern England in 1990, he discovered a species new to this country, which he named the Southern Chestnut, declining to name it after himself in a typical act of modesty.

He was, also, a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Ruth, and by their three daughters. His son pre-deceased him.

## HELENA HAYWARD

**Helena Hayward, OBE**, decorative arts historian, died on February 17 aged 82. She was born on September 18, 1914.



This explained her command of three foreign languages, although she also had some knowledge of Spanish, Danish and Russian.

In 1939 (on April Fool's Day, she liked to explain), Helena married the art historian John Hayward. He was called into service with the Special Operations Executive a few months later but as soon as the war was over he and his wife found themselves free to pursue their mutual interest in art. John Hayward was appointed a member of the Monuments and Fine Arts branch of the Army of Occupation in Austria from 1945 to 1947, and then for two more years, a member of the Control Commission in Vienna.

These appointments gave his wife a superb chance to study in many foreign libraries and to examine, in detail, Baroque architecture and dec-

oration. In 1951, when her husband joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum, she settled down in London to family life, and to writing and lecturing.

Helena Hayward's first book was a dictionary of

18th-century furniture maker, John Linnell. Her two-volume study (with Professor Pat Kirkham), of John Linnell and his brother William was published in 1980.

But it was as a teacher that she became best known. She lectured at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and for six years taught the silver and furniture courses at the Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts which her friend Erica O'Donnell had founded in 1964. Helena Hayward would also accompany her husband to the vintages of the Atttingham Summer School, to study the country house and its contents. She gave help to this school for many years, becoming its co-director in 1971, and then for ten years, 1976-85, its director. An Atttingham scholarship was endowed in her name in 1991.

Although an enthusiastic and charismatic personality, Helena Hayward always maintained a courteous tactful approach to house owners, whose knowledge of their own possessions was often less precise than her own. When they claimed that an Art Nouveau chair, for instance, was one that had been used at George II's Coronation, Helena would say nothing to disentangle them.

In 1994 a lavish party was thrown at Cliveden to celebrate her 80th birthday. Assembled friends paid tribute to a remarkable life.

Her husband died in 1983 and she is survived by a son and daughter.

**John Chapman, CB, naval architect, died on February 25 aged 97. He was born on December 28, 1899.**

**IN** A lengthy career in ship design John Henry Benjamin Chapman worked on vessels ranging from aircraft carriers and cruisers to submarines and lifeboats. He was only 14 when he joined the Royal Dockyard, Devonport, as a shipwright apprentice. He studied hard, passed his professional examinations and was appointed to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, as a constructor cadet.

After short periods at Chatham and at sea in the battleships *Resolution* and *Revenge* he was appointed, in 1923, to the Admiralty on the staff of the director of naval construction to assist first in the design of the *Kent* and *London* cruiser classes, and then to work in the submarine section.

In 1928, his special experience in underwater craft led to his joining the staff of RAE Admiralty Submarines at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. The "O", "P" and "R" classes, the first submarines of post-First World War design, were just coming into service. In addition to attending the first of their speed and deep diving trials he had the sad task of advising on the salvaging of the prototype aircraft-carrying submarine *M2* which had sunk while on trials in West Bay off Portland Bill. Although the submarine remains to this day at the bottom of the sea, Chapman received

a personal commendation from the Admiralty Board for his part in the operation.

In 1933 he spent three years at Portsmouth in charge of the reconstruction of the battle cruiser *Repulse*. In 1936, when the rebuilding of the fleet was getting into its stride, he moved to Scotland to oversee the building of the aircraft carrier *Implacable* and the

cruisers *Liverpool* and *Glasgow*, as well as the submarines *Cachalot* and *Tribune*.

In 1939 he returned to the Admiralty to take charge of aircraft operating and handling equipment. This involved liaison with the Air Ministry. He was also concerned with the fitting in merchant ships of rocket catapults for the launching of Hurricane aircraft for convoy defence.

With the passing of the Lend-Lease Act, repairs and refits of British ships were undertaken in US Navy yards and in 1941 a liaison staff of experienced naval con-

tractors, including Chapman, was sent to America. Chapman joined the British Admiralty repair mission in Washington. As American aid expanded, he also became concerned with the fitting out of new construction ships before their transfer to the Royal Navy, spending much of his time overseeing the work in shipyards in the United States and on the west coast of Canada. He remained in the US until the close of 1944 when he returned to the Admiralty at Bath, now in the rank of chief constructor.

A period of general design duties followed. In 1951 he was promoted to assistant director and moved into the more academic field of research and development. In 1954 he was made the principal deputy and in 1958 became Director of Naval Construction and thus chief warship designer in the new Ship Department of the Ministry of Defence. He was appointed CBE in 1957.

On retirement in 1961 he became a director of Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering, and a member of the council and a vice-president of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. He was on the management committee of the RNLI and as technical consultant was closely involved with the change from the old-fashioned double-ended life-boats to the modern Arun, Bede and Mersey classes.

In his later years he lived in Bosham, West Sussex. His wife Dorothy died in 1991 and he is survived by their son and daughter.

## JOHN CHAPMAN

March 14, 1918

**H.A.L. Fisher's Education Act raised the school-leaving age to 14. But his proposals for "continuation schools" and for classes limited to 30 were victims of the Geddes Axe in 1922.**

Mr Fisher pointed out, in the provision making local authorities responsible for all kinds of education in their areas...

Relying to the arguments urged against the Education Bill, Mr Fisher denied that public education weakened the sense of parental responsibility.

Education, he declared, was not one of the black arts; its function was not to suppress individuality, but to develop it. The object of the Bill was to provide the greatest possible scope for parental responsibility...

If a really effective scheme of selection in this country was wanted, he believed that nothing better could be got than a general system of day continuation education, which would enable boys and girls of ability to be picked out at different stages of their development to be pushed on to the careers for which their natural aptitude fitted them...

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## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FLUENT in French, German and Italian, Helena Hayward was quite at ease at the centre of a group of foreign art historians. Assembling them around a Chinese Chippendale chair, for instance, she would enthral them with her vivacity and knowledge. She understood that a good teacher needs to explain objects at first-hand, unheeded or roped off areas.

Helena was the only daughter of Sir Henry Marilyn, KCVO, Surgeon-Apothecary to the Royal Household at Windsor. After going to school in Ascot, she went to the Sorbonne and to Heidelberg Universities, and also spent a considerable time in Italy.

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NEW ZEALAND 120

TAIWAN 120 HONG KONG 120

TAJIKISTAN 120

PAKISTAN 120

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EGYPT 120

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QATAR 120

BAHRAIN 120

OMAN 120

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# THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

## NEWS

### Israeli schoolgirls shot dead

■ Arab-Israeli tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls. Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Five of the girls died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief. Pages 1, 15, 21

### Candles for Dunblane victims

■ Throughout Dunblane and over all of Scotland, the anniversary of the massacre on March 13 last year was marked by small but poignant tributes to the 16 children and their teacher who died at the hands of Thomas Hamilton. Across the country, candles were lit at 7pm. Page 1

### Gay ban pledge

The Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs. Jack Straw says it will go... Pages 1, 9

### Post-prandial chat

The dinner-party guests who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary which portrays them as right-wing bigots defended their views at a hastily arranged meeting in a Suffolk pub. Page 3

### Pupils mourned

Pupils and staff at Harrogate Grammar School mourned four of their brightest A-level students. The girls died in a car crash during a lunch-break excursion to a pub. Page 5

### Provocative Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury is about to provoke more controversy with comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church. Page 6

### Baby in jail

Roisin McAliskey is to be allowed to keep her baby, which is due in May, with her in Holloway jail for nine months, the prison service announced. Page 8

### Law reforms delayed

The Law Commission accused the Government of wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the implementation of many law reforms. Page 9

### White Cliffs of Dover are dunghills

■ The White Cliffs of Dover are made from the dung of microscopic shrimps whose droppings settled on the seabed and were later exposed, geologists believe. The chalk that makes up the cliffs and lies under much of Britain has a purity and whiteness that has always been a puzzle, says a booklet linked to a BBC television programme. Page 3



Britons waiting to leave Albania outside the British Embassy in Tirana. Rebels looted the capital's airport yesterday. Pages 1, 17

## BUSINESS

**NatWest:** NatWest Group's investment banking arm suspended four more members of staff as losses on derivatives trading widened to £90 million. Page 25

**Pensions:** Legal & General is to begin selling pensions by telephone. The move will raise further questions about the way pensions are sold. Page 25

**N Brown:** The mail order company is expected to raise £250 million from shareholders to fund the acquisition of the Freemans catalogue from Sears. Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 fell 24.8 points to close at 4397.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.8 to 97.0 after a rise from \$1.5930 to \$1.5973 and from DM2.7105 to DM2.7173. Page 25

**TWA crash claim:** Independent investigators claimed to have found radar evidence that TWA Flight 800 was accidentally shot down last July by a US Navy missile. Page 16

**Viva P.G. Wodehouse:** Oxford and Cambridge, the BBC, football and P.G. Wodehouse are top "European" achievements trumpeted as an Italian response to Euroscepticism. Page 17

**Motorists:** The AA forecasted a bright start with some rain over eastern England clearing during the morning. However, south-west England and west Wales will become cloudy again with some rain or drizzle. It will be mild generally. Scotland and Northern Ireland will mainly dry at first with bright or sunny spells, but rain over northern Scotland will edge slowly south during the day. Northern Ireland will become cloudy later. Rather cold in the far north, but mild elsewhere. Page 25

**Metfax Marine:** Indian leisure forecast. Page 25

**World City Weather:** 153 destinations world wide. Page 25

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Who guards the NatWest guardians?  Burnt-out case in gradual recovery  Food retail figures show upswing

OVER the past month, the market value of National Westminster has fallen by roughly £1.65 billion. Not all this can be attributed to the little mistakes being uncovered in the bank's option market-making business. Profit-taking took its toll, then the markets reacted to the Bank of England's fear that credit quality had peaked for the cycle.

Investors' confidence cannot have been helped, however, by the subsequent revelation that the bank had lost £50 million — sorry that should be £90 million and counting — because of what first seemed to be a clerical error in calculating option prices.

The one thing these numbers have in common is an awful lot of noughts. And what do noughts mean? They mean huge risks and huge potential losses as well as huge profits. In this case, disaster was not courted by the bank speculating on its own account, as virtually all do but should not. It was caused by giving customers too good a deal. Bank error in their favour, collect £90 million.

Golden termites from the accountancy and legal professions, swarming over the ant-hill that is NatWest Markets, are still trying to assess the extent of the errors and losses, the degree of incompetence and/or cover-up. Outside regulators will doubtless re-run the episode

many times in slow motion. One can safely guess the sages will conclude that computer monitoring software was inadequate to the task, supervision lacked a certain something (effectiveness perhaps?) and that a lot of money will have to be spent building a better mousetrap. There will be much tut-tutting about the bonus culture that can encourage young traders to cut corners.

We have heard it all before. The message of the noughts is, however, that the supervisory overheads should match the skills, drive and financial incentives of front-line traders.

One solution would be to use burnt-out traders, say past the age of 30. Another might be to adopt a military approach so that no one was in charge of the same book for long, that traders swapped places and perhaps that traders should spend every other month supervising each other. If this were done, profit margins would be lower, but so would be losses.

When investors lose £1.65 billion in a month, it is a serious matter whatever the cause.

Retribution has certainly been swift and deadly. Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, has volunteered to give up £200,000 of his £500,000 annual bonus. Mr Owen, a worthy fellow, believes this good example will encourage senior managers to take responsibility and follow suit.

Wow. Giving up £200,000 of your £500,000 annual success bonus just because you missed a £90 million hole. Now that is really something. Those employees who sued Barings for their bonuses after it collapsed will doubtless be impressed by this new moral dimension.

#### Crumbling heritage of United Biscuits

IT IS hard not to wax philosophical over burnt-out former stars such as BTR and United Biscuits. Once they bestrode the stock market like colossi, and Sir Owen Green and Sir Hector Laing, as they then were, were two of the most admired and powerful businessmen of their time. Now their successors are



scrabbling around to persuade analysts that the worst of the decline is over. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, all is vanity.

UB shares have seen something of a renaissance so far this year, as one or two of those analysts have been persuaded. The shares are, however, still not much more than half their value in 1993. Colin Short, the hard man drafted in from ICL, has delivered most of what the market has been asking for, by means of disposals including Keebler, probably UB's worst mistake because it meant taking on PepsiCo in its home market, and cost-cutting. UB was actually cash positive by £5 million last year before disposals, the first time this decade for a

company whose appetite has often exceeded its means. This was in spite of marketing spend rising as a percentage of sales and being set to rise further this year. The interest bill was almost five times covered by profits, and market projections suggest that cover will be up to seven or eight this year. Quite respectable, but reflected in the share price, alas, of about 16 times earnings this year and 14 times those for 1998.

This makes UB, the dog of the food sector, and, with limited growth prospects, dearer than more respected businesses such as Cadbury Schweppes. The premium has much to do with those hostile bid rumours that Eric Nicoli, the chief executive, claims to have heard once a week for the near-17 years that he has been there. Talks have taken place with Cadbury, which wisely turned UB down, and more tentatively with Nestle.

The latest candidate for those keen to push the UB price higher is Unilever. However, the Anglo-Dutch food combine has its eyes on the Far East and other emerging markets. UB, before its untimely expansion, depended on

the UK for 70 per cent of profits. After the group's contraction, the corresponding figure today is... 70 per cent. That's progress.

#### Grocers show signs of a counter punch

THE retailing pitches on City trading floors are wondering whether our mighty grocers, in the dumps since the start of the year, might have turned the corner. The reason is some sales data gathered and analysed by the Institute of Grocery Distribution that seem to show a sharp recovery in early March.

The IGD data are treated within the trade with the sort of secrecy normally reserved for instructions on how to produce a small nuclear device in your living room — that is, most experts have a pretty good idea but no one is inclined to say much in public. The index of food retailers' shares had plunged by about 13 per cent at its worst point in early February as fears of widespread price cuts coincided with a serious slump in sales in the early weeks of the

#### Wrong number

ONE wonders where the rush towards ordering everything on the telephone will end. Insurance is a commodity product, true, but pensions should surely be more individually tailored. Yet Legal & General is joining Virgin and others in selling the things over the phone. First there was pensions mis-selling — now wait for pensions mis-dialling.

## Reckitt shifts away from food sector

BY FRASER NELSON

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products and food group, is shifting away from its £200 million food operation, which it regards as "non-core".

The company, which owns Dettol and Lemsip, said that the food business was not part of long-term growth strategy. Instead, it was looking to emerging markets, through sales of its household products, to drive future growth.

Its food operations, mainly in North America, suffered a fall in operating profit last year, to £19.5 million, in spite of a 3.6 per cent increase in sales, to £203 million.

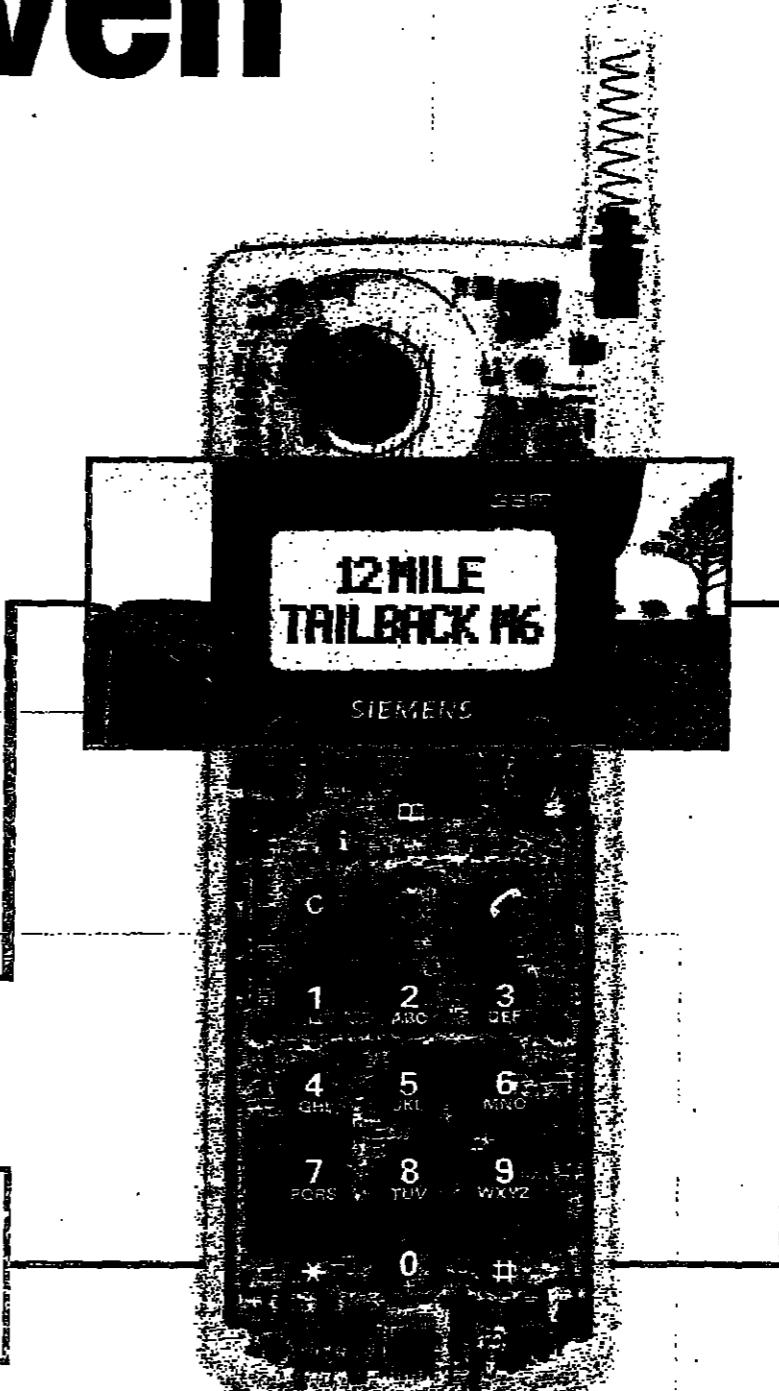
A stronger performance from household products, which account for 80 per cent of group business, helped pre-tax profits grow to £316 million (£285 million). After the effects of disposals, earnings dropped to 57.7p (76.8p) a share. The total dividend rises to 23.37p (20.15p), with a final 14.02p due on July 7.

The strength of sterling cut about £130 million from group turnover, which grew from £2.25 billion to £2.29 billion on an underlying basis.

L&P products, which it bought in 1995, delivered £45

## SIEMENS

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## BR subsidiary sold to US-owned company

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILFREIGHT Distribution (RFD), British Rail's loss-making Channel Tunnel freight subsidiary, is to be sold to by National Express Group by early next month.

The deal gives EWS a virtual monopoly over rail freight in the United Kingdom after its purchases of BR's three domestic heavy freight subsidiaries and Rail Express Systems, which handles mail and parcels.

No financial details of the sale were disclosed.

Better  
Talknology from  
Germany.



**THE  
TIMES**  
  
**CITY  
DIARY**

**When a tie  
becomes one**

A BOND dealer at Bear Stearns splashed out £1,290 yesterday for a tie signed by the Spice Girls.

Gavin Gilbert plied to the post players from houses including Warburgs and BZW. The auction, organised by City-screen, the real-time on-screen magazine on the Reuters network, raised £15,000 in total for Comic Relief. Bidding went quiet during the late morning, but picked up considerably after some long and no doubt bibulous lunches.

Asked to name his favourite Spice Girl, Gilbert, 28, highlighted just how poor they are at the US securities house when it comes to masters of culture. "I know nothing about them," he boasted.

SINCE Sir Andrew Large announced that he will not serve a second term as SIB chairman, Savon Bamfylde International has been brought in to assist the Treasury in the search for a replacement. Apparently it's more cost effective.

**Sparke out**

ABSENT from Cheltenham Festival this week was Jonathan Sparke. Normally in the best of form, stationed by the side of the racetrack, the managing director of City Index is, sadly, flat on his back in a London hospital. "The Gold Cup didn't seem quite the same without Sparke laying the odds and quoting a price," a colleague sighed. Let's hope he's fighting fit for the Grand National.

**Brian no more**

COLIN PARSONS has been appointed deputy chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The appointment of the 63-year-old executive chairman of Taylor Woodrow comes as a source of great relief for the London chamber. "It brings an end five years of Brian's at the helm," a spokesman says. Parsons follows in the footsteps of Sir Brian Jenkins, current president, Brian Pearce of Pearce Signs, and Brian Harris, of Richard Ellis.



"OK, I said — suspend me — chop a few million off my bonus — see if I care!"

BEWARE anyone telephoning Save & Prosper Direct tonight. The Romford call centre is dedicating 300 staff and 70 lines to answer pledges for Comic Relief. From 7pm until 11pm, the office will be juggling calls about Peps, unit trusts and Red Nose Day. Some staff will work until 2am before picking up the telephone again at Sam on Saturday.

**Diary needed**

CONFUSION reigns at Lonrho, after the departure of Dieter Bock and the arrival of Sir John Craven. Departing chairman Sir John Leahy, who will become a non-executive director in the new set-up, has been forced to fire off a letter informing shareholders that "the attendance record card attached to the form of proxy that accompanied the notice of the annual general meeting specifies that the meeting is to be held on Friday 26 March. This should of course be Wednesday 26 March."

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Where Germany stands on monetary union

The Government would do almost anything to avoid a big delay to the start of the single currency

WHEN the German Government and the Bundesbank speak, the world sits up and listens. But when analysing the problems of the German economy and the prospects for economic monetary union, what politicians and central bankers say in public is less important than what they really think. To try to establish the latter I have spent the past few days in Germany speaking to politicians, senior officials and their aides. Below are my interpretations of what I heard.

First, regarding the stagnation of the German economy, which is now by far the most important obstacle to monetary union, there is an encouraging realism in the German business community. The official view that the German unemployment crisis has nothing to do with monetary policy and is purely a function of structural rigidities in the labour market is no longer universally endorsed outside the portals of the Bundesbank. More and more Germans openly mention a subject that even a year ago was completely taboo.

This is the fact that the economic recovery of 1994 was killed by a pathological hardening of the mark. That, in turn, was caused, at least in part, by the policy pursued by the Bundesbank. Consider the following comment by a successful industrialist and senior Free Democrat politician: "The present unemployment problem is part of what happened two years ago when our exchange rate went to DM1.37. That had the most serious consequences, especially for smaller and medium-sized German companies which could not hedge against such exchange rates and simply could not compete."

When pressed about what could have caused this disastrous overvaluation the politician added: "I would not publicly criticise the Bundesbank, which, of course, is completely independent of politicians, but it is hard to deny that monetary policy had something to do with the damage done by the overvalued mark."

The corollary of this statement is a view that German politicians may not yet be willing to state on the record, but which industrialists now widely espouse: an expansionary macroeconomic policy is increasingly recognised as an indispensable condition for a reduction of unemployment and resumption of adequate growth.

Reform of the labour market, reductions in taxes and public spending and greater flexibility of the economy's supply side are all necessary. But many Germans no longer seem to share the Bundesbank's confidence that supply side reforms are sufficient to cure unemployment, or the view that monetary policy cannot be used as an instrument for accelerating growth or reducing unemployment.

Indeed an acceleration of growth is exactly what the Bundesbank itself is now trying to achieve by keeping interest rates at record low levels, as are the two other central banks that allowed their currencies to become grotesquely overvalued in 1995: Switzer-



Helmut Kohl has political problems over trying to shoehorn Italy into EMU

land and Japan. Largely as a result of the Bundesbank's undeclared conversion to more expansionary monetary policies about a year ago, the German economy is now clearly recovering. But Germany still depends for its momentum almost entirely on export growth. That means that any renewed strengthening of the mark against the dollar, the yen, and even sterling would spell serious trouble for Germany.

Turning to EMU, the rumours that Germany is planning to delay the start of the single currency seem to be just that, rumours, with no realistic foundation. Most of the key members of the German ruling class, including the central bankers, remain firmly committed to EMU. Some talk quite breezily about a brief delay for technical reasons — for example, to allow enough time to elect the board of the new European Central Bank.

But when it comes to a delay of 12 months or longer it becomes clear that the Government of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, would do almost anything to avoid such a setback. Any delay beyond six months could well undermine the credibility of the whole EMU project. By exposing the French franc to possible speculation it might even threaten the geopolitical relationship between Germany and France.

Why, then, all the delay rumours?

The official reason is that Germany itself may fail to meet the Maastricht convergence targets. Because of the weakness of the economy, the government deficit this year is widely expected to be well above the ceiling of 3 per cent of GDP.

From a strictly economic point of view it would not matter whether Germany missed this target by a few tenths of a point. This is readily acknowledged at the highest levels. Far more important than one year's precise deficit number is whether the underlying political culture is firmly opposed to inflation, whether government debt is prudently financed through long-term bond issues, rather than short-

term borrowing, and whether structural public spending is under control.

But in spite of Germany's generally good standing in terms of these fundamental criteria, there are three problems in simply assuming that EMU could go ahead.

The first problem is that the deficit could end up much higher than the 3 per cent ceiling — say in the 3.5 to 4 per cent range — and that would make it impossible to plead the favourable long-term fundamentals in defence.

Secondly, it is still uncertain whether Germany really is getting to grips with its structural fiscal problems, given that the Government's tax and pensions reforms are currently stalled in the Bundesrat.

Thirdly, there is the political trap that Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has set for himself by insisting that EMU can go ahead only if Germany precisely meets the 3 per cent target. Herr Waigel hoped to reassure the German public but the danger now is that his slogan "three means three" will be used against him and will undermine confidence if Germany goes ahead with even a slightly higher deficit.

This last factor, however, should not be overestimated. As long as the deficit is reasonably near 3 per cent, the public could be reassured if the Bundesbank gave its support for a decision to go ahead, citing the favourable long-term stability factors. The trouble is that the Bundesbank could offer such reassurance on three conditions.

First, the Government really would have to be dealing convincingly with some of the structural problems.

Secondly, the budget deficit would have to be within reasonable distance of 3 per cent. Finally, the other countries involved in the single currency would have to command the same credibility and display the same long-term stability culture as Germany.

This leads to another possible motivation for all the rumours of delay — though certainly not one that anyone would admit to. This is the desire to prepare financial markets for the almost inevitable exclusion of Italy, Spain and Portugal from the first round of EMU.

And if it becomes clear that there is little chance of these countries joining in 1999, the markets could even solve the problem of how to shake off Italy and Spain without offending their governments simply by destabilising their currencies and bond markets and thus making them ineligible even to be considered for EMU.

How would such a rebuff be taken by Italy and the others? Talking to senior Italians last week left me much less alarmed than I had been a few months before about the Italian political establishment's ability to cope with an initial rejection. For public consumption Italian politicians still refuse to contemplate even the possibility of being left out of EMU, implying that such a humiliation would cause something akin to national nervous breakdown. Beneath the surface, however, they seem surprisingly realistic — acknowledging the political difficulties for Herr Kohl of trying to shoehorn Italy into EMU.

They also seemed to recognise that too much intransigence on Italy's part could destroy the whole single currency project and do far more damage to Italy than a year or two of waiting in the wings. With a bit of imagination and flexibility it might not be too difficult to design some form of associate membership that would virtually guarantee that Italy and Spain could join EMU as full members in 2002 when the euro-notes first come into use.

BUSINESS LETTERS

**Bonuses could be unacceptable face of financial services**

From Mr Anthony Gee

Sir, To say that traders "take risks" is simply a euphemism for saying that they gamble with other people's money for the chance of a personal gain of millions, in, for the trader, a no-loss situation. Better than a lottery ticket — and the trader still gets a salary whatever happens. The banks' directors know what is going on and they offer the terms of employment

— and they are therefore also involved. Perhaps they hope for personal kudos from bigger profits. But whose money is being gambled? Ask an investor in NatWest or Barings, or a pension scheme where advertising is seen to triumph over performance.

The City had better get its house in order sharpish. Government proposals that everyone will soon have to make

private pension arrangements

might well result in government policing. Bonuses of the type recently in the news could become "the unacceptable face of the financial services industry". Would that be such a bad thing?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY GEE,

L'Enclos de la Tour,  
32140 Samaran,  
France.

From the Director-General of the Institute of Export

Sir, The Institute of Export recently endorses the comments of Mr Langford (Business News, February 13) regarding the grave mistake the Government has made on trade fair support.

This well-proven scheme successfully takes 9,000 UK companies to over 300 international trade fairs a year and generates half a billion pounds in new exports.

The "sector challenge" industry does not offer new money.

Rather it recycles an already

small pot into a range of untried even smaller containers.

Much will also be lost on the way overcoming new bureaucratic hurdles.

In 1995 Michael Heseltine promised an extra £40 million in export support, and 400 trade fairs a year. Now the overall budget is being cut and Anthony Nelson is claiming support for 300 trade fairs as a success!

He also plans to throw the whole trade fair budget into "sector challenge" in 1999.

What is needed is the more positive step of the regulator forcing SWT to spend the money it might have been fined on improving the network. He will not lack for suggestions from the travelling public.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT D. A. PICK.

The Old Vicarage,  
Shamley Green,  
Near Guildford,  
Surrey.

CHRISTOPHER J. CLARKE,  
A T Kearney Limited,  
Lansdowne House,  
Berkeley Square, W1.

Of more interest is the

**Fines on wrong track**

From Mr Robert D. A. Pick

Sir, Few of my fellow long-suffering commuters would disagree that SouthWest Trains needs to be heavily penalised for its latest demonstration of incompetence. However, huge fines (Pennington, February 18) will only have the negative effect of providing SWT with a further excuse for lack of investment.

What is needed is the more positive step of the regulator forcing SWT to spend the money it might have been fined on improving the network. He will not lack for suggestions from the travelling public.

Yours faithfully,

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**Trade fair cutbacks 'grave mistake'**

From the Director-General of the Institute of Export

Sir, The Institute of Export recently endorses the comments of Mr Langford (Business News, February 13) regarding the grave mistake the Government has made on trade fair support.

This well-proven scheme successfully takes 9,000 UK companies to over 300 international trade fairs a year and generates half a billion pounds in new exports.

To quote back the words of Mr Heseltine before Christmas: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

We have urged all our members and other UK exporters to tell Ian Lang and Michael Heseltine that, in the case of trade fair support, "it ain't so bad!"

Yours faithfully,  
IAN CAMPBELL.

Director-General,  
The Institute of Export,  
Export House,  
64 Clifton Street,  
London EC2.

**Debt's double blow**

From Mr Michael Russell

Sir, I can only agree with Peter Williams (letter, February 18), in that neither negative equity nor arrears causes the other.

What he fails to point out is that it is the combination of long-term, unmetable arrears and negative equity which closes the cell door on those who would otherwise sell up and trade down.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL RUSSELL.

2 The Island,  
Thames Ditton, Surrey.

— and made a profit for the

# NatWest counts the cost of damage to its reputation

Jon Ashworth looks at the latest blow to hit the group in the wake of Blue Arrow

A sense of gloom hung heavily over the NatWest group yesterday. A succession of mispriced trades, a gaping "black hole", and all the old skeletons had come tumbling out — Blue Arrow, Bancorp, all those bad and doubtful debts. A handful of long-serving NatWest players had been suspended pending the outcome of an intensive inquiry. There was to quote Derek Wanless, chief executive, a sense of bereavement.

The uncovering of losses dating back as far as 1994 — and undetected, in spite of all the controls and procedures — has heavy overtones of Barings, and threatens to inflict lasting damage on NatWest's reputation. Lord Alexander of Weedon, the group chairman, acknowledged as much yesterday, when he said: "This incident has rightly caused great concern both inside and outside the bank."

The reputational cost to NatWest threatens to exceed by far the £77 million headline figure. Mr Wanless has acted swiftly and openly in his tackling of the "black hole" affair, but it is how he proceeds from now that will be telling. NatWest's clients have given him the benefit of the doubt, but the suggestion of a fundamental flaw in the bank's control systems — yet to be substantiated — sends a worrying message to the wider community.

Only relatively recently has NatWest emerged from the shadow of the Blue Arrow affair. In 1987, Blue Arrow, the employment agency, launched an £837 million rights issue to fund the \$1.3 billion acquisition of Manpower, an American competitor, but the issue was a flop, and only 20 per cent of the rights were taken up. County NatWest, then NatWest's investment banking subsidiary, propped up the issue, and provided a secret indemnity to UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

Heads soon began to roll. Charles Villiers and Jonathan Cohen resigned as chairman and chief executive of County NatWest in February 1988, ostensibly blaming County's heavy losses in the 1987 crash. Elizabeth Brineelow, head of compliance, was resigning some months later. Six other executives

were later resigned, including Lord Boardman, who stepped down as chairman of NatWest in July 1989, taking responsibility for "serious failings" in the group.

The subsequent Blue Arrow trials served simply to rub NatWest's nose deeper into the dirt. The lone survivor, Tom Frost, dubbed "Teletom Tom" because criticism never seemed to stick to him — finally succumbed in March 1992, when he stepped down as NatWest chief executive. He and his former colleagues were later cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of any dishonesty and impropriety in their dealings with DTI inspectors over the Blue Arrow affair.

Mr Frost's departure — or rather, the appointment of Mr Wanless as his successor — marked the turning point for NatWest. Mr Wanless and Lord Alexander worked hard to rid NatWest of its old-fashioned, paternalistic structure and to lay past skeletons to rest. NatWest overhauled its corporate structure in January 1992, burying County NatWest, and creating Nat

# United Biscuits shows signs of modest recovery

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNITED BISCUITS confirmed that it is on the road to recovery yesterday as it reported a return to the black in 1996, after a £100 million dive into the red the previous year.

Shareholders are to enjoy the first, albeit modest, dividend increase since 1990. The final dividend will be 6.5p (6.3p), making a total of 10p for the year up from 9.3p. The group is also reinstating its profit-sharing scheme for UK employees, who will receive £1 million in shares for 1996.

Despite the generally rosy picture, the group said that a handful of businesses includ-

ing KP crisps in the UK and its French and Benelux snack businesses, are still underperforming and further disposals are not ruled out.

In the 12 months to December 28, pre-tax profit after exceptional was £24.4 million, compared with a loss of £100.6 million a year earlier. Pre-tax profit before exceptions doubled from £49.7 million to £109.1 million.

Most of the exceptions related to disposals last year, which also meant that sales were 34 per cent down at £1.99 billion, while borrowings fell sharply from £607 million to

£215 million. This meant that gearing was down from 97 per cent to 35 per cent.

Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said that the recovery had been led by the UK operations and there had been strong sales of Penguins, which rose 24 per cent, Hula Hoops, which rose 10 per cent, and Skips, which rose 25 per cent. He also said that the judgment in a case brought against Asda, the supermarkets group, should arrive in the next few days. UB alleges that Asda has been "passing off" its own-label Puffin biscuits as Penguins.

Mr Nicoli said that trading had been tough in Australia where Pepsi launched a big campaign based on giving away collectable Tazo discs with its products, but in the second half UB had begun to claw back lost market share.

Business in continental Europe, which made a loss in the first half, improved in the second six months of the year, with Verkade, the Dutch chocolates and biscuits subsidiary, staging a notable turnaround. The company also hopes that Asia will provide opportunities for long-term growth.

Earnings per share before exceptional were 14.8p, compared with 4.8p a year ago. The dividend is payable on July 1.

United Biscuit's shares rose 12p to 249.2p yesterday.

Pennington, page 27



Eric Nicoli, chief executive of United Biscuits: "Recovery was led by UK operations"

## French share sale expected to trigger Woodchester bid

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

THE long-awaited sale by Crédit Lyonnais of its 54 per cent stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish financial services group, is expected to trigger the largest takeover in the history of the Irish stock exchange.

The size of the French bank's stake means its sale will lead to a full bid for Woodchester, which is valued at £re600 million. Among the frontrunners for the company, which yesterday reported a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £44 million, are GE Capital, the financial services group, and Lombard & Ulster, Ulster Bank's leasing subsidiary.

Woodchester's share price has risen sharply since Crédit Lyonnais started negotiations with the European Commission over a second rescue package involving a large injection of state aid. The Commission is expected to insist that the bank sells a large proportion of its non-French assets.

Craig McKinney, chairman and founder of Woodchester, said that he was confident of receiving a high level of interest from prospective purchasers. He holds about 2.5 million

shares, currently worth more than £7 million.

Mr McKinney said that the group's operations had shown strong growth in 1996, with new business advances reaching £1.2 billion, up 38 per cent. Earnings per share were up 19 per cent, to 15.46p.

In the Republic of Ireland, the motor, agricultural equipment and business equipment finance sectors all performed well. In Northern Ireland, the company completed the acquisition of the financing arm of Charles Hurst, the region's largest motor group.

In the UK, new business advances were up 32 per cent on 1995, and in Denmark and Portugal the company continued to increase its market share.

In his results statement, Mr McKinney said: "Whilst the resolution of the Credit Lyonnais shareholder issue is of key importance to the future of your group, it has not, and will not, deflect management's attention from the day-to-day running of the business."

The company declared a final dividend of 4.69p, giving a total of 7.85p, up 15 per cent, payable on May 16.

## Live TV sends right signals to Mirror



Montgomery: local progress

By PAUL DURMAN

MIRROR GROUP said it was making good progress in attracting advertisers to its growing network of local TV stations. Although Mirror's Live TV is best known for its national channel, with its News Bunny and topless darts, it also offers local services in Birmingham, Westminster, Liverpool and Edinburgh. David Montgomery, the media group's chief executive, said: "Local markets are much more exciting than the national brand market."

The share of advertising captured by Birmingham Live, the longest-established service, is five times better than Live TV's share of national advertising. Birmingham Live offers six hours of local news, informa-

tion and sport every day, and claims a bigger audience share than channels such as Sky News, MTV and CNN. Mirror said TV advertising revenues had consistently beaten targets, and Live TV remained on track to break into profit by the end of 1998. It will soon add local channels in Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow. Yet local programming will only cost £4 million in 1997.

Mirror was reporting a 6.6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £82.2 million. The group also made an exceptional profit of £19.4 million, mainly from property. Turnover rose 7.3 per cent to £558 million. The company was pleased that The

Mirror and its other newspapers had overcome sharply higher newsprint costs of £130 million through higher cover prices and a 6.7 per cent rise in advertising revenue. It said it had improved its papers through the introduction of supplements such as *The Mirror's Football Mania*.

Scotsman Television, in which Mirror holds a 20 per cent stake, contributed profits of £12.2 million. However, the £5.6 million of this that came from trading was wiped out by losses believed to be about £7 million, from *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, in which Mirror has a 46.3 per cent interest.

## Court threat to Coutts Consulting

By FRASER NELSON

COUTTS CONSULTING, the career adviser, has said it may be forced to turn to the City for extra cash if it loses a £23.5 million court battle with the former owners of GBA, its French subsidiary.

The company, which is locked in dispute over what it claims is a loophole in its contract with GBA's former owners, said it would have to "negotiate additional funding" if it failed to close the loophole in the handover agreement.

The dispute centres on a clause in the contract in which Coutts agreed to pay GBA's former owners a percentage of improvement in profits between 1994 and 1995. The subsidiary made a loss in 1994, but returned to profit the year after. This created a substantial improvement of which its former owners are claiming their share. Coutts is arguing that it should be compensated for the 1994 losses, which would reduce the final payment to Fr5.5 million.

Mobility in the employment market helped the company to lift pre-tax profits to £3.04 million (£2.39 million) last year, on sales of £8.3 million (£3.7 million). Earnings were 2.76p a share (2.52p), and the dividend rises to 2.9p (2p). A final 1.55p is due on June 30.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Disappointment as Graham takes a fall

GRAHAM GROUP, the builder's merchant, suffered a sharp fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £10.7 million, from £19.3 million, as a result of competitive market conditions and volatile raw material prices. The company is holding the total dividend at 5.7p, with an unchanged 3.8p final, payable from earnings that fell to 5p a share, from 10.2p previously.

Sales increased 9.3 per cent to £533.9 million but operating profit fell 32.4 per cent to £15.9 million. The company said that although the results were disappointing, the performance had improved in the second half and at the year-end there were strong indications of increased activity related to the upturn in the housing market. The shares rose 5p to 143.2p against last year's high of 209p.

### EasyJet's 200 new jobs

EASYJET, the low cost airline, is to create 200 jobs at its headquarters at Luton airport over the next year, nearly doubling its workforce. Most of the vacancies will be in the company's cabin crew and telesales departments, but there will also be 30 new jobs for pilots. The telesales and cabin staff will be recruited locally as far as possible, maintaining EasyJet's record of taking 90 per cent of staff from the local area. The company currently has five aircraft, with two more due to come into service by the end of the year.

### Sirdar profits drop

SIRDAR, the wool company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.586 million in the six months to December 31 from £3.299 million last time. Earnings fell from 3.46p a share to 3.16p a share although the interim dividend is held at 1.79p a share. Gerry Lumb, the chairman, said Sirdar's hand-knitting and machine yarns divisions are currently accepting business at improved margins, and forward bookings are at a higher level than last year. The company expects this division to be back into profit in the near future.

### Quintain offer agreed

QUINTAIN ESTATES has made a £60 million agreed offer for Fiscal Properties and is buying the interests in Croydon Land & Estates (CLE) not owned by Fiscal, taking the total paid to £77 million. The value of Fiscal's existing portfolio is £81.6 million and CLE's is worth £55.6 million. Quintain plans to sell certain Fiscal and CLE properties deemed to be unsuitable for its enlarged portfolio. Quintain's offer values each Fiscal share at 72.7p, a premium of 12 per cent to Wednesday's closing price of 65p.

### Carlton deal referred

THE Government yesterday referred the Carlton acquisition of Time Warner's MetroColour London Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said the decision had been made on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading. The MMC is required to make its report by June 25. Meanwhile, Time Warner said that it has abandoned plans to list on the London Stock Exchange. The decision follows its acquisition last October of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

### Cape looks at demerger

CAPE, the building materials group, is considering demerging its two remaining businesses as the final piece of its £6 million restructuring programme. The company is likely to jettison its industrial services arm and focus on producing fireproof building boards. The costs of shedding nine businesses left the company with a pre-tax loss of £13.2 million last year, against a £1.1 million profit last time. This brought losses to 24.7p per share (14p profit). The final dividend falls to 6p (11p), with a final 3p.

### Passenger increase

THE number of passengers passing through Britain's big airports rose by 4.5 per cent last month, thanks to a huge increase in Irish traffic. BAA's seven British airports handled 6.5 million people in February 1997. The number of people travelling to and from Ireland increased by 17 per cent compared with February 1996, while numbers on other long haul routes rose 9.1 per cent. North Atlantic traffic was up 8.3 per cent. The number of passengers taking European scheduled flights rose 4.2 per cent, but European charter traffic fell 3.9 per cent.

### Delphi buys stake

DELPHI GROUP, the computer software and services company, has acquired a strategic stake in Groupe Decan Europe, the French IT systems and services company, for £3.4 million. The deal was effected by the purchase of 25.01 per cent of GD, the holding company that owns a 55 per cent stake in Groupe Decan. In addition, GD owns two properties with a book value of £1 million, which are solely used by Decan for its operations. In the year to June, Decan revenues amounted to £15.5 million while pre-tax profit was £1.7 million.

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# Enterprise Oil shares jump after 40% advance

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES of Enterprise Oil rose 18½p to 652p after the exploration company announced a 40 per cent rise in net profits for 1996 and 1p uplift in the dividend, the first increase for four years.

Increased production, up 3 per cent on 1995, and higher oil prices helped Enterprise to raise profit after tax from £101 million to £142 million.

The company also benefited from a high success rate in finding new oil reserves. Enterprise booked 160 million new barrels to its balance sheet, almost twice as much oil as it pumped out of the ground

during 1996. Pierre Jungels, the new chief executive of Enterprise, said that after five months with the group he was highly impressed with the quality of the assets.

He quashed recent rumours that Enterprise was planning a takeover bid and pointed out that the group's core areas of operation, the UK, Norway, Italy and the US, were politically stable, compared with other oil rich countries, such as Algeria, Colombia and Indonesia.

He added: "If we find opportunities in areas which are politically risky, it will go into the equation and it is probable that we will reject projects on that basis."

Enterprise is paying a dividend of 17p for the year. Operating cashflow after tax and interest rose 25 per cent to £560 million thanks to a rise in average realised oil prices from £10.72 in 1995 to £13.17.

Enterprise continues to squeeze its overheads, bringing unit operating costs down from £2.35 per barrel to £2.28 per barrel.

Mr Jungels predicted that overall costs could be squeezed further and pointed to oil industry targets of \$1 per barrel finding costs, \$3 development cost and \$3 operating cost.

"If we can improve our costs, we are less influenced by the oil price," he said.

Enterprise's average finding cost was 99p per barrel in 1996. The company drilled 36 wells, of which seven were successful appraisals. Of 29 exploration wells drilled, Enterprise made 11 discoveries.

The exploration and development budget in the current year totals £500 million, which will be spent in the core areas of UK/Norway, Italy and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition wells will be drilled in the Atlantic Margin, the Black Sea, South-East Asia and Peru.

Tempsus, page 28

## Japanese growth picks up

From A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

ECONOMIC growth in Japan is likely to outpace the Government's own forecast of 2.5 per cent in the current fiscal year after a stronger than expected performance in the three months to December 31.

Japan's Economic Planning Agency said gross domestic product rose 1 per cent in the last quarter, or 3.9 per cent on a yearly basis. As a result the Government's target can be achieved even if the economy shrinks by 0.63 per cent in the three months to March 31, the final quarter of Japan's fiscal year. Economists believe growth, which is being led by private demand, of 2.7 per cent is within reach.

Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group, said: "These numbers show that the economy probably has a little more momentum than most people thought up until now."

Others were more pessimistic, saying it would be difficult to achieve the target GDP growth of 1.9 per cent in 1997/98. Tomoko Fujii of Salomon Brothers Asia, said: "There are already uncertainties looming on the horizon. Public-sector demand has already fallen and we are expecting fiscal tightening in the coming months."

CORTWORTH, the specialist engineering group formed via a management buyout from Williams Holdings in 1993, has reported a 14 per cent rise in operating profits for 1996, its first full year as a quoted company (Martin Barrow writes).

Operating profits rose to £9.8 million, from £8.6 million,

On the increase: Perry Group, the automotive company, plans to increase the number of outlets in its Nationwide Crash Repair Centres chain to 50, from 35. The chain, which exceeded targeted sales of

£40 million by £2 million last year, contributed £2 million to group profits in 1996, helping the group to achieve a 26 per cent advance in pre-tax earnings to £8.3 million, from £6.5 million.

The company, where Richard Allan, pictured

above, is chairman and chief executive, is increasing the dividend to 9p a share from 8p, with a 5.75p final. Earnings rose to 21.1p a share, from 16.8p. Although turnover rose just 10 per cent to £456 million, the operating profit rose 27 per cent to £10.3 million.

## Nestlé losing 135 jobs in overhaul

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MORE THAN 100 jobs are to go in a restructuring of Nestlé UK's ice cream and culinary businesses. The group is axing 225 jobs but creating 90 new ones in a mix of its plants near Manchester, leaving a net loss of 135 jobs.

Mr Jungels predicted that overall costs could be squeezed further and pointed to oil industry targets of \$1 per barrel finding costs, \$3 development cost and \$3 operating cost.

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Tempsus, page 28

## Cortworth engineers 14% rise

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Operating profits rose to £9.8 million, from £8.6 million,

in spite of a fall in turnover to £67.2 million, from £70.5 million, largely because of a withdrawal from low-margin subcontract commitments.

Pre-tax profits rose to £10.1 million, from £9.4 million, with some of the rise attributable to financial restructuring at the time of flotation removing the

cost of high-interest loans. Cortworth ended the year without borrowings and paid no interest charge, after interest costs of £4 million in the previous year. Capital spending doubled to £3.2 million.

A 4.4p final dividend makes a total 6.5p. The shares, floated at 150p, rose 2p to 175p.

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Netherlands	(DFl)	778	45%	428	224	130
Switzerland	(SF)	808	35%	445	232	135
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## LBSH to be valued at £47m

London Bridge Software Holdings, which provides software, consultancy and services for credit risk, is expected to be valued at £47 million when it seeks a stock market listing later this month at 200p a share.

It aims to raise £6.4 million, of which up to £5 million will be used to buy back 2.5 million ordinary shares from Gordon Crawford, chairman and managing director.

### Jeyes higher

Jeyes, the household requisites group, raised pre-tax profits from £12.9 million to £24.3 million in the year to December on sales down from £16 million to £13 million. There is a 1p dividend against none in the previous year.

### Mohair down

British Mohair, the wool group, saw a fall in pre-tax profits from £869,000 during 1996 from £2.3 million in 1995. The final dividend has been cut from 7.6p to 4.1p, leaving the year's total down from 9p to 5.5p.

### Tullow deal

Tullow Oil is to merge its Czech oil and gas operations with those of MOH investments, the private oil and gas company, through Medusa Petroleum, a new holding company. It plans to raise up to £8 million and to be listed on AIM.

### Offer firmed

Navia, Endress & Hauser has declared its offer for Whessoe, the North East engineering group, wholly unconditional and now accounts for 51.4 per cent of Whessoe shares.

### Premier signs

Premier, the oil group, has signed a sales agreement with Burma and Thailand to supply gas from the Yetagun Field in Burma to Thailand.

### Inchcape job

Inchcape, the international vehicle distribution group, has appointed Les Cullen, from Goodman Fielder, the Australian food company, as group finance director.

## Shares fall after Molins warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SEVERN TRENT

the water company, plans a capital restructuring that will involve a cash sum for shareholders. The move completes plans announced in November to return 10 per cent of share capital to shareholders.

Graham Millar, managing director of Nestlé Food Division, commented: "This has been a very difficult decision and one we would not have taken if there had been any viable alternative option."

He went on: "We are faced with an increasingly competitive marketplace, which forces us to look for ways to increase efficiency and cut costs."

"We are committed to assisting our employees at Peterhead and Stourbridge to find alternative, long-term employment by establishing a job shop and task force, and by providing a comprehensive programme of assistance and advice."

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He said it would be unrealistic to anticipate growth in earnings on a significant scale until a more balanced and somewhat stronger order flow is established across the group.

The pattern of order intake is such that no significant increase in sales is planned this year in the group's traditional activities. Unless market conditions improve in the near future, sales of corrugated board machinery are unlikely to be maintained at last year's levels."

Mr Orr said that the international specialist engineering company continued to face weaker demand from the American corrugated board

industry. He added: "General conditions in the corrugated board industry are weak and customers remain reluctant to commit themselves to orders for machinery."

He said the order backlog for tobacco machinery was good, but lower than a year ago, while Molins' packaging machinery division has a steady order flow.

The Hunt Valley plant had been closed, a more suitable facility at Bristol found, and a small facility was being closed at Orpington.

Molins raised pre-tax profits from £29.8 million to £34.3 million during 1996 on sales up from £28.5 million to £30.2 million. Earnings per share rose to 72.8p from 65.4p, out of which the total dividend rises from 20p to 22p. The final dividend goes up from 14.1p to 15.5p.

### EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

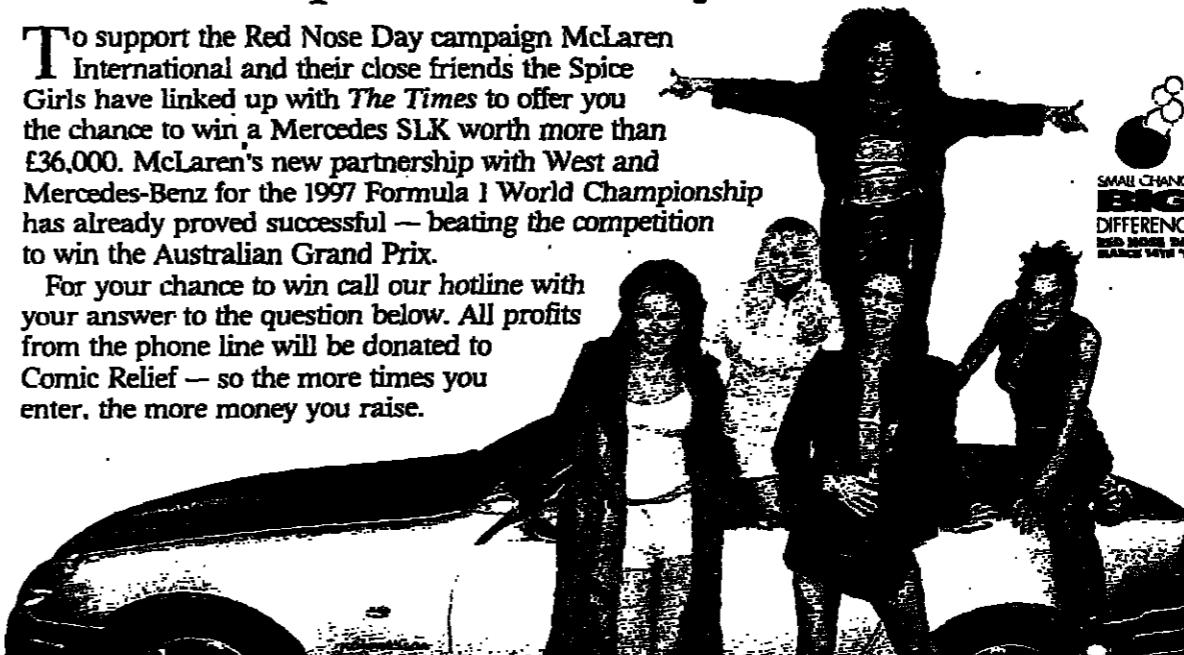
THE TIMES

## Win a £36,000 Mercedes SLK

and help to raise money for Comic Relief

To support the Red Nose Day campaign McLaren International and their close friends the Spice Girls have linked up with The Times to offer you the chance to win a Mercedes SLK worth more than £36,000. McLaren's new partnership with West and Mercedes-Benz for the 1997 Formula 1 World Championship has already proved successful — beating the competition to win the Australian Grand Prix.

For your chance to win call our hotline with your answer to the question below. All profits from the phone line will be donated to Comic Relief — so the more times you enter, the more money you raise.



CALL OUR COMPETITION HOTLINE ON 0891 335 599

0891 calls cost 50p per minute

Spice Girls, who are donating the proceeds of their No 1 hit Who Do You Think You Are? to Comic Relief, hope to be at the Grand Prix.

### HOW TO ENTER

Call our hotline, above, before midnight on Saturday March 22 with the answer to this question:

How much money has Comic Relief raised in its five previous Red Nose Days?

a) £100 million b) £112 million c) £150 million

All proceeds from the line will go to Comic Relief. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

### COMIC RELIEF — THE FACTS

Over five Red Nose Days, Comic Relief has raised just over £112 million. Two-thirds of the money goes to self-sufficiency projects in Africa, and one-third to projects in the UK.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

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## Council possession action lawful

Harrow London Borough Council v Johnstone

Before Lord Brown-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey of Tulliechelle, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde

[Speeches March 13]

Where a wife was joint tenant with her husband of the matrimonial home, a council house, and on the break-up of the marriage gave notice to the council terminating the tenancy, neither she nor the council was in contempt of a court order restraining her from excluding or attempting to exclude the husband from the house and proceedings by the council for possession were not an abuse of the process of the court.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Harrow London Borough Council from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russel and Sir Roger Parker, Lord Justice Hoffmann dissenting) (*The Times* March 31, 1995; [1995] 93 LGR 450) who had dismissed the council's appeal against the decision by Judge Hunter at Willesden County Court on August 4, 1994 of its claim for possession against the husband, Maurice Ernest Johnstone.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Frank Fetherston for the council; Mr Nicholas Underhill and Mr Adrian Jack for Mr Johnstone.

LORD MUSTILL said that the tenancy agreement had provided that the tenants might terminate the tenancy, a secure tenancy under the Housing Act 1985, by four weeks written notice.

The marriage had run into difficulties, and in 1992 the wife

had commenced divorce proceedings, although they had not been immediately pursued and had not reached the stage of a decree until 1995.

In February 1994, matters had come to a head. The wife had left the house with the children and the husband had applied to the county court for a prohibited steps order under the Children Act 1989 and an injunction under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976.

The judge had made, ex parte, the prohibited steps order and an order forbidding the wife "whether by herself or by instructing or encouraging any other person" (1) to use or threaten violence against the applicant or in any way to harass or otherwise interfere with [him]; (2) to exclude or attempt to exclude [him] from [the] house".

Since Mr Johnstone had remained in possession of the house and the wife had been unwilling to return she had needed somewhere else to live and had applied to the council. It was however, contrary to council policy to provide accommodation to someone who already had a council tenancy, and it had suggested to her that she should serve notice terminating the joint tenancy, which she had done. At that time, it had been aware of the injunction.

The council had sent Mr Johnstone a copy of the notice to terminate and told him that his tenancy would come to an end on April 25. On receipt of the notice, he had told it about the injunction.

He had remained in the house, and the council had brought

proceedings for possession. His defence was that by giving the notice the wife had been in breach of the injunction and was in contempt.

By bringing the proceedings when aware of the injunction the council had aided and abetted her in that breach and was itself in contempt and the proceedings were an abuse of the process of the court. The judge had accepted that submission and dismissed the council's claim for possession.

In the light of the principles in *Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council v Monk* ([1992] 1 AC 478) the wife's notice had been effective to terminate the joint tenancy and, other things being equal, the council had been entitled to possession.

Mr Johnstone's application for injunction had been made under the 1976 Act. It was plain that the prohibition against excluding him from the house had not been intended to be a mandatory order requiring the wife to co-operate in maintaining the rights created by the joint tenancy pending the adjustment of those rights in matrimonial proceedings for proprietary relief not yet started. It had been concerned with the exercise of rights under the tenancy, not with the continued existence of the rights themselves.

Mr Johnstone's second line of argument relied on the general interest in preserving the integrity of the judicial process.

It was based primarily on *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* ([1992] 1 AC 19), the *Spectator* case, reinforced by *Attorney-General v Leveiler*

founded upon evidence that the two year qualifying period had a considerably greater adverse impact upon women than upon men during the years 1985 to 1991.

It was not evident that it was having such a discriminatory effect at the time of the judgment in the summer of 1995. On the contrary, the evidence showed that by 1993 the gap between the men and women who qualified had narrowed.

Thus the declaration neither enabled the employees to sue for unfair dismissal nor told the government that United Kingdom legislation needed to be changed because it was incompatible with Community law.

It was contended that the declaration could found a *Francovich* claim against the state *Francovich v Boniface v Italian Republic* (Cases C6 and 9/90) ([1995] ICR 722).

In *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* ([1995] 1 AC 1) the House refused to make a declaration on similar grounds. Lord Keith of Kinkel said (at p32) that it would be inappropriate as the Attorney-General would be the defendant in any proceedings directed at enforcing it and the issues raised would not necessarily be the same.

There were no grounds upon which that reasoning did not apply to the present case.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Vergine, Harrow; Rosenberg, Kentish Town.

*Magazine Ltd* ([1979] AC 440). The differences, however, from the *Spectator* case were fatal to his argument. No proceedings designed to yield proprietary relief had been in existence at the relevant time. No inference of intent to frustrate the aim of the proceedings could be drawn from the council's dealings with the wife, since there had been no proceedings to frustrate.

Mr Johnstone then advanced a more extreme argument: that the council should have foreseen that there were, or might be, in the future, proceedings in which the court would be called on to address the proprietary rights of the spouses and that the destruction of the tenancy would cause irreparable damage to Mr Johnstone.

His Lordship acknowledged the appeal of the argument in human terms, but the council had simply been carrying through the logic of its housing policy: that one person could not have two council tenancies at the same time.

He found it impossible to hold that by putting its statutory duty as tenancy authority before the interests of a matrimonial relationship of which it was not the guardian, it had contemptuously subverted the authority of the court or intentionally nullified the aims of any legal proceedings.

Lord Brown-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey and Lord Clyde agreed and Lord Hoffmann delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Mustill.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Vergine, Harrow; Rosenberg, Kentish Town.

## Declaration discharged on making reference

*Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Seymour-Smith and Another*

Before Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey, Lord Slynn of Tulliechelle, Lord Nichols of Birkenhead and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches March 13]

A declaration that the effect of the provision introduced by the Unfair Dismissal (Variation of Qualifying Period) Order (SI 1985 No 782), that an employee must have been continuously employed for two years to qualify for the protection against unfair dismissal conferred by section 54(1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, indirectly discriminated against women between 1985 and 1991 and was incompatible with the principle of equal treatment enshrined in Directive 76/207/EEC (OJ 1976 L39/40), served no useful purpose as it could not affect the rights and duties of employees and their employers and would be discharged.

Instead, a reference would be made to the European Court of Justice to establish whether the 1985 Order infringed article 119 of the EC Treaty.

The House of Lords so held in considering preliminary points in an appeal by the Secretary of State for Employment against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Rook and Lord

Stephen Richards for the secretary of state; Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Peter Duffy for the applicants).

LORD HOFFMANN said that by virtue of a consistent jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice it was clear that a directive, as such, had no effect upon the rights of parties such as the applicants and their employers. The position was otherwise when the question concerned the rights and duties of the citizen as against the state or one of its emanations: see *Marshall v Southampton and South-West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (Case 152/84) [1985] QB 401; [1986] ECR 723.

It was therefore, clear that a declaration such as was made by the Court of Appeal would not enable the employee to pursue their proceedings in the industrial court. Would it serve any other purpose?

The difficulty was that the declaration was not that United Kingdom legislation was incompatible with Community law. It was that such an incompatibility existed in May 1991. That was

founded upon evidence that the two year qualifying period had a considerably greater adverse impact upon women than upon men during the years 1985 to 1991.

It was not evident that it was having such a discriminatory effect at the time of the judgment in the summer of 1995. On the contrary, the evidence showed that by 1993 the gap between the men and women who qualified had narrowed.

Thus the declaration neither enabled the employees to sue for unfair dismissal nor told the government that United Kingdom legislation needed to be changed because it was incompatible with Community law.

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There were no grounds upon which that reasoning did not apply to the present case.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor: Ms Gay Moon, Camden.

## Computer program is not a patentable invention

*In re Patent Application No 9204992 by Fujitsu Ltd*

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Rook and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 6]

A patent application, entitled "Method and apparatus for creating synthetic crystal structure images", in essence a method for modelling on computer a crystal structure for use in designing inorganic materials in the field of chemistry and physics, was a computer program as such, and thus not a patentable invention.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laddie in the Patents Court of the Chancery Division (*The*

Times June 18, 1996), of an appeal from the rejection by the Principal Examiner on June 23, 1995, of a patent application by Fujitsu Ltd on the ground that it was excluded by section 1(2) of the Patents Act 1977.

Mr Colin Birss for Fujitsu, instructed by Hazelton Lake & Co, Bristol, patent attorneys: Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, for the Comptroller General of Patents.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the basic idea utilised a computer programmed so that the operator could select an atom, a lattice vector and a crystal face in each of two crystal structures displayed on the display unit.

Upon instruction the computer, using the selected requirements,

converted data representing the physical layouts of the two crystal structures into data representing the physical layout of the crystal structure that would be obtained by combining the original two structures in such a way that the two selected structures were superposed.

The resulting data was then presented to give a picture of the combined structure. The crystal structures the inventor particularly had in mind were those of semiconductors and superconductors.

Having considered the relevant claims in the present application, His Lordship said that it was and always had been a principle of patent law that mere discoveries or ideas were not patentable, but

it should be noted that a resolution specifying the terms on which a patent may be granted to the inventors of the invention was not intended to propose any new law.

His Lordship did not find the board's reasoning as to what was the technical contribution easy to ascertain. But the decision did not conclude that all claims to process-

those which had a technical aspect or made a technical contribution were.

That was the basis for the decision of the Technical Board of Appeal in *VICOM/Computer-related inventions* (Case T 208/94) [1997] EPOR 74, had been accepted by the Court of Appeal and by the European Patent Office, had been applied since 1987 and was at the heart of patent law.

Mr Birss submitted, inter alia, that the *VICOM* case showed that patent applications for processing images of real things were not excluded from being patentable.

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## THEATRE 1

Gemma Jones prepares to play the role of one of the founding mothers of psychoanalysis



## THEATRE 2

... while, in Martin Crimp's *Attempts on her Life*, one woman personifies all of modern life



## MUSIC

At the Barbican, Rostropovich returns to some of the scores that he inspired



## TOMORROW

Some of the oldest painted portraits in the world go on show at the British Museum

THEATRE: *Mrs Klein* previewed in Watford; and a intriguing new play reviewed in London

# Shrinking into a dream role

The controversial psychoanalyst Melanie Klein is to be portrayed on stage next week. Jeremy Kingston reports

This week's new arrival at the National Theatre, the musical *Lady in the Dark*, is that stage rarity: a work that explores the seething inner world of a person undergoing psychoanalysis. A magazine editor tells her shrink about the men in her life and the song scenes show how they feature in her dreams. Films have often made use of dreams. Most of *A Matter of Life and Death* happens inside David Niven's head. But in the theatre — outside musicals — the interpretation of dreams rarely features.

One recent exception was Terry Johnson's marvellous *Hysteria*, where the dying Sigmund Freud, high on painkillers and assailed by ancient guilts, watches in horror as the contents of his unconscious spill across the stage. One of the stage directions memorably reads: *Fred picks up the phone. It turns into a lobster*.

Johnson's play was doubly unusual in that the principal character was a psychoanalyst, and the most famous of them all. When analysts feature in plays, and in films too, it is almost always as peripheral characters, like the doctors in Chekhov plays: there to shed light on the guarded fears of others.

So far as I know, no one has yet presented Jung as the protagonist of a play, though since he appears to have made a habit of seducing girl patients the day cannot be far off before we see one — perhaps titled *Jung and Foolish*.

But five years before Johnson brought Freud on to the stage of the Royal Court, Nicholas Wright had introduced audiences at the National to the formidable, larger-than-life figure of Melanie Klein, the woman who put the breast into analysis. His *Mrs Klein* opened at the Cottesloe in 1988, transferred to the West End and then to Broadway. Uta Hagen has just played it in Los Angeles. And in Watford, to come closer to home, Gemma Jones opens next Friday in a production by Irina Brook.

Melanie Klein was the most influential of that generation of analysts who came after the founding father. Born in 1882, the youngest child of a Viennese dentist, she married young and in order to do so was obliged to abandon her medical studies. This later exposed her to much criticism from those of her colleagues who wanted to keep analysis as a branch of medicine.

But it's an ill wind, as they say, and since she was discouraged from analysing adults, she turned to children and realised that play was the child's mode of exploring and expressing his conflicts. Her discovery of the violent and sadistic nature of children's "phantoms", largely focused on the mother's breast, caused indignation. In 1926 she came to England and remained until her death in 1960, continuing almost to the last to arouse opposition from analysts who believed her work to have become inconsistent with Freud's.

**Klein's theories of sadism in child's play caused uproar**

This is the background to Wright's play, but really one needs to know nothing of it to enjoy the drama he creates from two crucial days in her life in the spring of 1934. One of her sons has died on a Hungarian mountain; her daughter Melitta (a doctor as well as an analyst) is preparing to go over to her enemies and a refugee from Berlin is about to take the role of Melitta's rival sibling. The scene is set for a remarkable display of longing, rage, verbal pyrotechnics and wit.

The production at Watford brings its own parent-child echoes.

Irina Brook is the daughter of Peter.

Gemma Jones followed her

father Griffith Jones on to the stage,

and in her first London production

appeared with him in Anouilh's *The Cavern*. Since then she has

become widely known through *The Duchess of Duke Street* and as Mrs Dashwood in the film of *Sense and Sensibility*. On a table in her south Hampstead home lie several books by and about Klein. Her embroidered jacket could easily pass as Central European and she even leans forward, elbows on knees, as though about to hand out wooden dolls and watch them being hatched together.

"It's a lovely part to do," she says.

"She used her own children, you

know. Watched them play. That's

one of the things Melitta holds

against her." We can think ourselves fortunate not to have had Mrs Klein as a mother, but watching a fine actress play her, in a major revival, will be a rare treat.

• Mrs Klein is in preview at the

Watford Palace (01923 225671) from

next Friday, and opens on March 25



Gemma Jones plays the title role in a new production of *Mrs Klein* at the Palace Theatre, Watford

## Little cipher Annie

Near the end of Martin Crimp's 100-minute play at the Ambassadors Upstairs, the eight-person cast leaps on to chairs and launches into a parody Cole Porter number about a woman called Annie. She isn't the top, still less the Mona Lisa or the Eiffel Tower, but she is an artist, a femme fatale, a porn star, a terrorist, a refugee, the presidential candidate for a warring state, and "the

girl next door". She is a capsule person for 1997, or rather, a compendium of the women we might put into a time capsule and shoot into space, especially if we wanted aliens to sense our worried, fin-de-millennium mood.

The rest of an unconvention-

al absorbing play consists of sketches, conversations or monologues about the always absent Annie, Annie. Anya or little Annushka. She is the icily murderous member of the Baader-Meinhof gang, and the wife of an American militiaman dedicated to hunting

gays and Jews. She is a traveller who, bewildered by a life spent partly with starving Africans and partly beside millionaires' swimming pools, drowns herself. She is a raging avant-garde sculptor, a dead child driven by her demented mother out of a war zone, a

celebrity, a conventional bore, even a car named the Anna.

I began to worry during a short section in which she was described as a nymphomaniac who spoke five languages and had discovered a particle "which will completely change the way we look at the Universe". Was there anything Annie wasn't? Was Crimp's invention wholly arbitrary? At different times the actors sit at a dinner table, peer from red-smoking holes, perch in a plane, prepare to set light to a bowed victim. Faces appear on television sets. Projections of X-rayed luggage pass across a big screen. Would it have

added or subtracted anything if I had leapt onstage and, accompanied by holograms of happiness, declared that Annie was a Russian gymnast with an interest in racing pigeons?

Well, maybe. The play has its motifs, connections and recurring preoccupations. Annie does not just represent confusion. Crimp is absorbed with the mind-splitting contradictions of a world where some are very rich, others very poor, some suffering terribly, others fighting or defending the status quo almost as horribly. At any rate, any alien who unpacks his time-capsule will be left with the impression of a planet on which atrocity-victims perform for gloating TV audiences, and nice people chat while their neighbours run stark mad.

By the end I did not feel inclined to dispute the sharpness of Crimp's prose, the fluency of Tim Albery's production or the excellence of Ashley Jensen, David Fielder and the rest of the cast. But I did go home a mite disconcerted. My wife is called Anne.

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— *Scott Andrew Film Review*

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## ■ POP 2

Strings, brass and a dash of kitsch make up the sonic stew on My Life Story's new album



## ■ POP 3

At the age of 76, John Lee Hooker is starting to sound a little weary of the blues



## ■ POP 4

Those bad old boys, Aerosmith, are back in winning ways with the vintage *Nine Lives*



## ■ JAZZ

Claire Martin combines brio and sensitivity on an album of classic New York ballads

**POP ALBUMS:** David Sinclair dips into My Life Story's lush tales of the louche, but gets buried alive in the blues

# Love with strings attached

**MY LIFE STORY**

*The Golden Mile*  
(Parlophone 7243 8 55628 £9.99)  
WHAT with the recent return of ABC and the sudden rise of the Divine Comedy, the stage could not be better set for the unveiling of *The Golden Mile*, the second album by My Life Story.

As the only modern pop group (apart from Mike Flowers Pops) to employ the full-time services of a four-piece string section and three-piece brass section instead of the usual guitars and keyboards, My Life Story have evolved a sound that is grand, glamorous and not a little kitsch. Certainly, their involvement elsewhere with P.J. Proby and Marc Almond can have been no accident.

The bedsprings twang like a pizzicato string." Jake Shillingford sings in his well-manicured tones on *Marriage Blister*, a typically upbeat number that harnesses a lyric quivering with knowing irony to the swirling sounds of less complicated romantic pop era.

From the chirpy nonsense of *The King of Kissindom* to the more serious point of *You Can't Uneat the Apple*, it is all very precise and mildly seductive, if rather self-consciously arch.

**JOHN LEE HOOKER**

*Don't Look Back*  
(Pointblank/Virgin America  
7243 8 42771 £13.99)

**R.L. BURNSIDE**

*Mr Wizard*  
(Fat Possum/Epitaph 0301 £14.99)  
IT IS all very well to talk about pop stars sliding into a comfortable middle age, but what are we to make of these crusty old bluesmen who are still cranking out their strange voodoo well into their pensionable years?

John Lee Hooker, 76, and R.L. Burnside, 70, are two of the last surviving blues originals. Both

were born in rural Mississippi, and both migrated to the urban north in the 1940s: Hooker to Detroit, Burnside to Chicago. But, for all the similarities of background, their new albums come from opposite sides of the tracks.

In the past decade Hooker has acquired the status of a godhead. A master of his craft, he now takes the respect of his industry and the affection of his public for granted. Celebrity musicians routinely beat a path to Hooker's door, and his new album is produced for the most part by Van Morrison, who also plays a supporting role on several of the tracks.

But all this respect and musicianship bonhomie has rather blunted Hooker's edge. *Don't Look Back* begins with a look back at *Dimples*, a song Hooker first recorded in 1956. Accompanied on this one by Los Lobos, Hooker gives a sprightly account of himself without adding anything to the original. But, as the album progresses, his grip gradually relaxes to the point where he sounds as if he could be doing this in his sleep.

Long stretches of languid adlibbing and lazy call-and-response routines with Morrison seem to conceal Hooker's rather tenuous grasp of the song structures, which is odd considering he wrote most of them himself. But a rambling version of Morrison's *The Healing Game* and a feeble trot through Jimi Hendrix's *Red House* add nothing in the way of spice or variety to what now sounds like an overly well-trodden groove.

In stark contrast, Burnside remains very much the outsider, a man who, for all his experience, has yet to enjoy more than a nodding acquaintance with fame, let alone fortune. His collaborators on *Mr Wizard* are either punk desperados like the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion (on two tracks), or else a

clattery homegrown duo comprising his grandson, Cedric Burnside, on drums and guitarist Kenny Brown, whom some call "R.L.'s only white son".

The absence of a bass guitar anywhere on the album lends an authentic, garage band frisson to the sound, but the reckless, raucous urgency of tracks such as *Alice Mae, Rollin' & Tumblin'* and *Georgia Women* is more to do with the supremely abandoned delivery of Burnside himself. On two unaccompanied tracks — *Over the Hill* and a version of the Rev. Gary Davis/Fred McDowell standard *You Gotta Move* — Burnside howls and hollers as if his life depended

on it, while inflicting all kinds of grievous bodily harm on an approximately tuned slide guitar.

While Hooker takes a well-deserved rest on his laurels, Burn-

side summons up the original, hellhound-driven spirit of the blues with an anarchic fervour that few performers of any generation could hope to match.

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (1) Pop...	U2 (Island)
2 (2) Spice...	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3 (3) Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
4 (4) Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
5 (-) Still Waters	Bee Gees (Polydor)
6 (13) B-Sides, Seaside & Freerides	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
7 (20) The Very Best of...	Bee Gees (Polydor)
8 (14) Evita	Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
9 (6) Dreamland...	Robert Miles (Deconstruction)
10 (10) Older...	George Michael (Virgin)

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• Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

**AEROSMITH**  
*Nine Lives*  
(Columbia COL 485020 £13.99)  
HAVING toyed with the idea of updating their sound, then wisely rejecting it, Aerosmith have come up with another gilt-edged collection of heart-on-sleeve, tongue-in-cheek, bad boy rock'n'roll songs, written and performed as only they know how. "My old libido has been blowing a transistor," Steven Tyler

sings on the single, *Falling in Love (Is Hard on the Knees)*, a theme to which he returns on many occasions, most notably on the lubricious *Taste Of India*, where the band goes for a kind of dandored Led Zeppelin sound.

Elsewhere, the first person singular is never far from Tyler's lyrics — "I got terminal uniqueness, I'm an egocentric man," he proclaims in *The Farm* — as the band mixes high-voltage rockers such as *Crash* with old-fashioned power ballads, including *Fallen Angels*, *Full Circle* and *Hole in my Soul*. Like a winning soft drink formula, some things are simply too good to tamper with.

## Over 30? Don't you think it's time you grew up?

of a small pebble, and dance-routines that look like five old guys continually on the verge of falling over. And the amount of cover-versions they get through: they're nothing more than a nipple-revealing Robson & Jerome.

And Spice Girls! Two-bit hoopers whose Girl Power manifesto seems to consist of exposing breasts for maximum publicity. Hardly *The Female Eunuch* with a dance-beat, is it?

And Backstreet Boys!

Haven't the foggiest clue what they look like, but I'm convinced they'd come off second

best in a brain-and-talent contest with a flock of hens.

Of course, there have always been manufactured pop bands. They're something management companies do in their spare time, carefully putting together projects that include the Cute One; the Vaguely Menacing One; the Serious One and the Joke One. If you're in marketing, you'd probably explain the teenie-band phenomenon as trainer-bra music, something sweet and palatable to prepare you for the real thing — underwiring and Oasis.

But what's really disconcert-

ing is that, over the past couple of months, 30 and 40-year-olds have been banging on about the wonder of teenie-pop like it's the distilled DNA of the Beatles. "It's wonderful, ephemeral, disposable, *Zeitgeist-bedding brilliance!*" they rave. "The youthful energy! The sparkly costumes!"

Really, there is nothing better than wonderfully mindless pop music."

Well, of course there is, as



**CAITLIN MORAN**

these people well know. That's why they're not down the front at Wembley Arena with banners and whistles, screaming their little hearts out. That's why they're sitting at home with a whisky (rather than an alco-pop), headphones on, trying to work out all the lyrics to the third REO Speedwagon album.

It's natural to feel suddenly

creaky and halfway dead in

your thirties, but to fight back by willingly shedding half your brain cells, and getting into music that 12-year-olds "dig", won't help a bit. Twelve-year-olds grow out of teenie-pop by the age of 15, and start trying to find out who this Marc Bolan fella that everyone goes on about was. Thirty-year-olds will still be asking each other who their favourite Spice Girl is at the election after this one.

All this am-I-missing-the-point? fear was triggered by the original Old Spice, Kylie Minogue. Throughout her halcyon days with Stock,

yourself, she was thoroughly reviled as a bimbo-pop for two-year-olds.

One small fact, missed at the time, was that her name was

on some of the best singles of the 1980s and early 1990s.

When around 1994, creditable pop stars such as Primal Scream, Manic Street Preachers and St Etienne admitted they fancied her and loved her records, the fear of God was put into a lot of elderly people.

Up until then, teenie-pop had always been uncool. Now things weren't as straightforward any more. Some teenie-

pop was cool. Perhaps all

teenie-pop was cool. Maybe teenie-pop was cool if you fancied the person singing it.

And so the point was monumentally missed — teenie-pop is cool if it's good — and the horror of middle-aged men and women discussing Ronan from Boyzone's new haircut was upon us. All I can say is: for pity's sake, don't do it! Being adult is wonderful! Teenage girls spend every day wanting to be grown up, so they can go in pubs, drive cars and have sex with someone who lives further away than the next estate. If all they have to look forward to is conversations about boy-bands, they'll all start chain-smoking in the hopes it will stunt their growth and arrest their development. Cough. Cough cough.

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Rangy and dramatic, yet

## JAZZ ALBUMS

precise and sensitive where necessary, this is big-band jazz at its best.

## CLAIRE MARTIN

*Make This City Ours*  
(Linn AKD 066)

THE CITY in question is New York, where award-winning UK vocalist Claire Martin recorded this, her fifth Linn album and the first involving not only a producer, Joel E. Siegel, but also a rhythm section and an alto player, Antonio Hart, based in the jazz capital.

Martin's repertoire, however, is much as before, with standard material from the likes of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin interspersed with snappily satirical songs, lovers' laments and the occasional original.

Her voice has not lost its

ability to combine an almost chummy intimacy with technical assurance and mature poise, ensuring that the carefully chosen songs on this consistently entertaining album are delivered with Martin's customary mix of sensitivity and brio.

CHRIS PARKER

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*The Secretary to the Governors, King's College School, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 4TT.*

*Telephone: 0181 255 5300. Fax: 0181 255 5439*

*The closing date for applications is 19 April 1997.*

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## EDUCATION

## The questions your 11-year-old will face

A guide to the tests by John O'Leary and David Charter

The test results of 11-year-olds published in this week's primary school league tables showed a marked improvement on the previous year. But there were still common faults, which contributed to 40 per cent failing to reach the benchmark expected of the age group.

This page provides an initial guide to the year's tests in English, mathematics and science that take place in May. A fuller guide will appear in paperback books sponsored by *The Times*, which will be published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office at the end of this month.

As the Key Stage Two tests assumed greater importance last year, a growing number of schools introduced revision classes. Many parents also took an active interest in their children's preparation. The proliferation of revision guides, on CD-Rom and video as well as book form, suggests that the trend will accelerate this spring.

Like the tests at seven and 14, assessment at 11 is designed to chart pupils' progress through the national curriculum. Though Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has talked of simplifying the system, this year's candidates will be assessed in terms of national curriculum levels.

As in previous years, there will be three types of test.

## Broader range of reading required

FOR ENGLISH, 11-year-olds will be tested separately on spelling and handwriting, in addition to the main tests in reading and writing. There will also be optional tests in grammar and punctuation.

After the poor showing of 1995, the 57 per cent reaching at least Level 4 came as a relief, especially as the proportion at higher levels almost doubled. However, barely more than 1,000 of the 33,000 children taking extension papers managed the top level possible at 11.

In the reading test, most did well on questions testing retrieval, but few were able to generalise or draw conclusions from a story about a boy's relationship with his brother.

Commas and quotation marks gave most problems in punctuation, and apostrophes were often used incorrectly. Many children were also confused in their use of similar words, such as "there" and



The assessment is designed to chart pupils' progress through the national curriculum

**UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH**

**Look Who's Talking!**  
The story *Time Trouble* starts with a clock that talks.  
Write your own short story about something that one day suddenly starts to talk.

The pictures may give you some ideas.

You should think about

- what it is that talks
- who it is talking to
- what it says
- what happens next

**SPELLING**

The teacher reads out a list of words that the pupils have to write down

still	stretched
moment	disturbed
shook	sneeze
remained	slipped
silence	unclosed
visitors	sprawling
notices	pieces
crept	eased
tallest	replaced
beautiful	heard

**MATHEMATICS**

Children run a 100 metres race on Sports Day.

Here are their times.

Name	Time taken
Sue	16.57 secs
Jen	16.39 secs
Sam	14.82 secs
Tom	17.00 secs
Phil	16.88 secs

What is the winner's time?

Who has the time nearest to 16 seconds?

This diagram shows the proportions of waste by weight a family throws away in one year.

Estimate what fraction of the waste is organic.

The family throws away about 38 kilograms of plastic in a year.

Use the diagram to estimate the weight of glass and metal they throw away.

## Missing the point with decimals

RESULTS in mathematics were the lowest of the three core subjects in last summer's tests for 11-year-olds, despite a rise in pupils achieving Level 4, the target for their age.

Concerns about the results have led to the introduction this summer of an optional 20-minute mental arithmetic test, which about 80 per cent of schools have chosen to run.

The two compulsory 45-minute papers cover three of the national curriculum areas: number and shape, space and measures, and handling data.

Last summer's tests showed that many children had a weak grasp of the use of decimals and the inter-relationship between multiplication and division, as well as the relationship between percentages and simple fractions.

Difficulties also occurred in the use of correct mathematical vocabulary for geometrical shapes and measures, using measuring equipment such as protractors and in making approximations.

Answers to the data-handling questions suggested that children needed more experience of using bar charts with horizontal as well as vertical bars. This was evident in a question about long-jump distances, where even some of the most able children were stumped.

On a more positive note, children's ability to answer questions about probability improved markedly last year.

The 1996 tests included one calculator-free paper for the first time, but some children apparently wasted time in the other paper by working out sums in longhand when they could have used a calculator.

● The mathematics tests for 1997 will be set on May 12 — Maths A (45 minutes), mental arithmetic (20 minutes); May 13 — Maths B (45 minutes); and May 19 — Maths extension paper (30 minutes).

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## Setting a tougher standard

SCORING high marks in science became more difficult last year, as the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority toughened the marking to bring the subject into line with English and mathematics.

However, though science was the only subject to register a drop in the number of pupils reaching the standard expected at 11, the "pass rate" was still higher than for English or mathematics. The extension paper was so tough that only 120 pupils out of almost 6,000 candidates reached Level 6.

### SCIENCE: THE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE

**Temperature**  
John has four jars with water in them.  
  
He measures the temperature of the water in each jar using a thermometer. These are the four readings he takes in °C:  
0°, 15°, 40°, 60°  
Fill in the table by putting these temperatures in the correct places.

Jar with:	Temperature of water, °C
ice water	
water and ice	
hot water	
warm water	

**(b)** The temperature of the classroom is always 18°C. What will happen to the ice floating in the water?

**(c)** John puts out two new jars of water. He writes the temperatures on the jars.  
Next morning, the temperatures of the water in the jars have changed.  
The room temperature is still 18°C.  
Write in the boxes the temperatures of the water the next morning.

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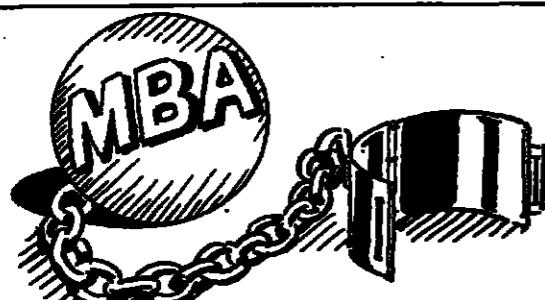
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# Living off the land? I'm not wild about it

This being the middle of March, the sap is rising. Therefore the first thing I must do this morning is pass on some urgent instructions, in the event that you are reading this while walking through a wood carrying a brace and bit, a length of plastic hose and a plastic container and you are suddenly taken with the desire for a glass of wine.

Set that birch tree over there? Stab the bit firmly in the brace, drill a hole in the tree to a depth of an inch or so. Withdraw the bit and wait. Sap will shortly start to seep, so jab one end of the hose in the hole and the other end in the container. Wait two days. You now have enough sap to mix in some fermenting material (sorry, can't help you there) and you will soon have wine of a quality fit to bring the trading standards people round at a gallop.

I know all this because I

watched *A Cook on the Wild Side* (Channel 4) last night. I also know how to catch a hare: you get a long net and stake it to posts, then get beaters to drive the hare into the net. Once it is caught, skin the hare, simmer for three hours in wine and herbs, thicken sauce with hare's blood. I can also catch a freshwater crayfish (I saw five minutes in boiling water) using as bait the carcass of a chicken.

Fearley-Whittingstall is never grumpy and his programmes are highly entertaining, but it is slightly odd that television, which would become a redundant medium if we took up all the tempting activities it offers us, should be quite so keen to show us the hard way to do everything.

**R**ay Mears, survival's ultimate survivor, has a series on BBC2 in which he visits the sort of people for whom fishing with a chicken would be a mere bagatelle: they first have to dig through six feet of ice to reach the water. And even Jeremy Clarkson, chief motormouth, could not resist going to Iceland to show us that

Dulux colour chart, is not universally admired: "Bit like a glass-fibre lunchbox, innit?" says a man probably rendered grumpy by the realisation that he was born too late for *What's My Line?* ("lives off canal scrap").

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**H**ugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's series, back for another run, is about food foraging, this time on the inland waterways, with FW based aboard his river cruiser. The boat itself, painted to resemble a

## REVIEW



Peter Barnard

the way to reinforce a flat tyre is not to call Kwik-Fit but to spray lighter fuel inside the tyre and set fire to it.

These programmes warn the heart in that they show us people who retain the skill to use naturally occurring resources. I am glad such people exist, but will resist joining them. And our stretched, public services need modern applications for this inventiveness: where is the man who can rub two

sheet-metal workers together to create a fire engine?

If all of this reaching for nature is part of our compulsion to explore the past, *Horizon: Shipwreck* (BBC2) at least demonstrated that there is a link between a lump of wood dumped on the seabed 400 years ago and computer-aided design. This was a fascinating detective story about a ship wrecked off Alderney in the Channel Islands in the 16th century.

There are at least 100 wrecks in the area and when bits of one first appeared in fishing nets no one saw much significance. But gradually the impression grew that the ship may be special, may indeed be the first English vessel of the time to be recovered from home waters. The key clue lay in the rudder.

Ships of that ilk were built without benefit of physics but they nonetheless were measured on very precise ratios. Therefore rais-

ing the rudder and measuring it meant that all the ship's proportions — length of keel, beam and so on — could be calculated, enabling a computer projection of the ship itself. It was not the ship that the archaeologist Michael Bowyer hoped it might be, a pinnace built at Limehouse in 1586, and indeed the detective work continues. But analysis of a timber gun port cover proved that the wood was cut in 1575 and that it was British.

I hope that my enjoyment of *Surely Some Mistake* (BBC2), the series on corporate *faux pas* which ended last night, does not reflect the usual British glee at the sight of a business person doing something daft. Each half-hour programme dealt with three examples when in many cases one would have easily absorbed all the time available, but that is my only reservation.

The highlight last night was

Benetton and its creative director, Oliviero Toscani. Benetton is, of course, the Italian company that makes what Ian Hislop calls "over-priced pullovers", and Toscani is responsible for the company's most controversial advertisements, which included an AIDS victim on his deathbed (banned in Britain) and a new-born child (withdrawn after protests).

For the latter, Toscani went to a maternity hospital and took the photographs himself: "One woman asked me, 'how much do I owe you?'" Toscani is now pursuing a gentler line: "It's time to do some reflection." But did these advertisements, which struck me as merely daft and pretentious, constitute a business mistake, given that the controversy provided Benetton with enormous exposure? I cannot conjure a Benetton balance sheet out of squid's ink and a piece of timber beaten to a pulp, so I don't know.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (15443)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (10801)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5114714)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (4461191)
- 9.45 Kilroy (4141356)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (92191)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (6167153)
- 11.45 The Really Useful Show (7779882)
- 11.45 Change That (8345714)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (7211882)
- 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5252085)
- 12.30 Going for a Song (6522153)
- 12.55 The Weather Show (79693917)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (20288)
- 1.30 Regional News (83363482)
- 1.40 Neighbours (T) (116677269)
- 2.05 For the Love of Aaron (1994) with Meredith Baker and Nick Mancuso. A struggling author goes through a creative and financial rough patch. Directed by John Kent Hamson (7948627)
- 3.30 Playdays (5129988) 3.50 The Red Nose. Comedy sketches, games and competitions — all in the name of charity (5683608) 5.05 Newround (T) (9653739)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (2614379)
- 5.30 Neighbours (T) (903917)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (795)
- 6.30 Newsroom South East (375)
- 7.00 Comic Relief Lenny Henry kicks off an evening of entertainment in aid of charities both at home and abroad. Susan Tully reports on the hardships faced by street children in Tamale (5191)
- 8.00 Dame Edna Makes the Nation See Red. The megastar presents Coronation Street stars on University Challenge. Father Clifford of Ballykissangel meeting The Vicar of Dibley, and the Spice Girls. Victoria Wood looks at caring for sick relatives 24 hours a day (1511)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (7801)
- 9.30 Comic Relief: French and Saunders Behaving Badly. Dawn and Jennifer keep the ball rolling with Men Behaving Badly and Boyzone. Julie Walters reports from Adibah (146820)
- 10.15 Ross, Rhys, Enfield and Chums in Prime Cracker, Fiz and Detective Jane Tennison join forces. Tony Ferino performs a duet with Bjork; Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse provide comic interludes (286172)
- 11.00 Father Ted and His Faithful Friends. Unholy Fathers Ted and Dougal bless the proceedings with their presence (9246)
- 11.30 The Empire Strikes Back. Live Comedy and music from the Shepherds Bush Empire, with Steve Coogan, Bill Bailey, Suggs, Art Garfunkel, The Spice Girls and the Sugar Lumps, comprising Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Kathy Burke, Jlewellyn Gleeson and Luke (36035)
- 12.30am Bedtime with Ben Ben Elton with the final selection of sketches. Plus, the phone pledge total is announced (32486)
- 1.00 Comic Relief: The Beginning. The early 1980s show (3012)
- 2.30 Billie Connolly's Return to Rose and Beak (T) (4132221)
- 3.20 Weather (73471812)

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## BBC2

- 6.00am Open University (7140714) 6.25 Forest Futures (T) (7714085) 7.15 News (T) (7063269) 7.30 The Wacky Races (T) (8817511) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (T) (3297085) 8.20 Just So Stories (T) (7686462) 8.35 The Record (5892695) 9.00 The French Experience (2110404) 9.15 The Biology Collection (8570959) 9.45 Watch (7905627) 10.00 Playdays (72153) 10.30 Hotch Potch House (2219269) 10.50 Cosmo and Dibs in Punjab and English (5176530) 11.00 Look and Read (9196225) 11.20 Short Circuit (9002356) 11.40 English Time (5893530) 12.00 English File (51085) 12.30pm Working Lunch (88627)
- 1.00 Scene: Skinny Marink Comedy from Howard Schuman (11530)
- 1.30 Le Club (83352356) 1.45 Words and Pictures (83340511) 2.00 Just So Stories (T) (3692240) 2.10 Sport on Friday (276172) 3.55 News (T) (6574204) 4.00 Today's the Day (288) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (172) 5.00 Esther (T) (8172)
- 5.30 Santorini Pot Black David Vine introduces the final of the inaugural competition (424)
- 6.00 The Simpsons Bart dies and goes to Hell (13304)
- 6.25 Top of the Pops (T) (277801)
- 7.00 Pole to Pole: Shifting Sands Michael Palin crosses Sudan from the Nubian Desert in the north to the war-torn south (T) (773820)
- 7.50 A Week to Remember (bwv) (393004)
- 8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie who goes on an autumn journey along England's East Coast (T) (4358)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey visits Dunham Massey, a newly restored National Trust garden (T) (6181)
- 8.30 Comic Relief Lenny Henry kicks off an evening of entertainment in aid of charities both at home and abroad. Susan Tully reports on the hardships faced by street children in Tamale (5191)
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- 10.15 Ross, Rhys, Enfield and Chums in Prime Cracker, Fiz and Detective Jane Tennison join forces. Tony Ferino performs a duet with Bjork; Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse provide comic interludes (286172)
- 11.00 Father Ted and His Faithful Friends. Unholy Fathers Ted and Dougal bless the proceedings with their presence (9246)
- 11.30 The Empire Strikes Back. Live Comedy and music from the Shepherds Bush Empire, with Steve Coogan, Bill Bailey, Suggs, Art Garfunkel, The Spice Girls and the Sugar Lumps, comprising Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Kathy Burke, Jlewellyn Gleeson and Luke (36035)
- 12.30am Bedtime with Ben Ben Elton with the final selection of sketches. Plus, the phone pledge total is announced (32486)
- 1.00 Comic Relief: The Beginning. The early 1980s show (3012)
- 2.30 Billie Connolly's Return to Rose and Beak (T) (4132221)
- 3.20 Weather (73471812)



Stephen Fry's favourites (9pm)

- 9.00 Comic Relief Goes to the Movies Stephen Fry, Jo Brand and Mark Laram are among celebrities choosing clips from their favourite films (T) (5443)
- 9.30 Timeswatch: Haig — The Unknown Soldier Was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig really responsible for sending thousands of young men to their deaths at the Somme? (T) (T) (8765559)
- 10.20 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain (T) (793849)
- 10.28 Video Nation Shorts (548545)
- 10.30 Newsnight (T) (241265)
- 11.15 Space: Above and Beyond West recalls a brutal battle (219820)
- 12.00 Staff the White Rabbit Guests include Jerry Sadoff, Tom Mullica, and Noel Britton (53467)
- 12.30am-2.00am The Lover and His Lass (1975) Risqué comedy about a man breezing his way through a succession of jobs and girlfriends. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, a music producer, and John Nelson, a local builder. Then and now comparisons reveal the scale of the task.

## CHOICE

- Scene: Skinny Marink
- BBC2, 1.00pm
- Once again you have to be impressed at the quality of the talent gathered for a schools drama. The writer is Howard Schuman, of *Rock Follies*, *Selling Hitler* and a prize-winning comedy for *Scene* called *Young Jung*. The cast includes Phyllis Logan, Philip Jackson and Roy Hudd, and teenage actors who are less known but no less good. One of them, Kristopher Miles, plays Andy, the teenager at the heart of the story. He is a self-doubting young man, bothered by forthcoming exams and his father's illness. Schuman draws on his Polish background for the Skinny Marink of the title, a twisted clay figure which acts as Andy's alter ego and represents his anxieties. It is an intelligent and thoughtful piece which would not be out of place in the adult schedules.
- Comic Relief
- BBC1, 7.00pm
- If you have ever thought what a wheeze it would be to send Stephen Tompkinson's Father Peter from Ballykissangel's village of Dipley, with Dawn French's vicar moving in the opposite direction, then think no longer. It happens tonight, during six hours of fundraising entertainment interrupted only by news. Or how about an alternative Spice Girls, featuring French and Saunders, Kathy Burke and Louise Boyzone and the real Spice Girls are also on parade, together with lots of comedy performers doing lots of silly things. Lenny Henry, Dame Edna, the ubiquitous Sian Williams and S. Jonathan Ross and the *Police* Ted stars take turns to host the evening, which is in aid of charity projects in Africa and Britain. The fare is better than that served up for Children in Need and the cause no less worthy.
- Birding with Bill Oddie: East Coast
- BBC2, 8.00pm
- The magic of birding, Bill Oddie reckons, can be summed up in one word: migration. To pursue this theme he travels down the coast of Britain, from the Farne Islands in Northumberland, by way of Flamborough Head and Bridlington in Yorkshire, to north Norfolk. All the while his binoculars are trained on birds of passage who are making Britain their temporary home. They may have come from the Arctic and be heading for Africa, so British birdwatchers have to know when and where to spot them. To Oddie's credit he does not pretend that birding is unmitigated fun. He braves the prospect of seasickness to join fellow enthusiasts on a North Sea boat trip. The waters stay calm, thus saving us any unsavoury footage, but the birds, despite being tempted by a smelly mix of vegetable oil and fish guts, refuse to show.
- The Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Channel 4, 8.00pm
- This is not the first television documentary about the biggest garden restoration in Europe this century and nor, given the continuing nature of the project, should it be the last. But a six-part series promises the most detailed account so far. As Heligan attracts 200,000 visitors a year, many will know the story but for newcomers it goes like this. The gardens in Cornwall were developed from the middle of the 18th century to the start of this one. Then came the First World War and half the garden staff died on the Western Front. The expertise went with them and for 70 years Heligan "went to sleep", becoming a wilderness hidden under laurel and brambles. The restoration started in 1990, led by Tim Smit, a music producer, and John Nelson, a local builder. Then and now comparisons reveal the scale of the task.
- Stephen Fry's favourites (9pm)
- 9.00 Comic Relief Goes to the Movies Stephen Fry, Jo Brand and Mark Laram are among celebrities choosing clips from their favourite films (T) (5443)
- 9.30 Timeswatch: Haig — The Unknown Soldier Was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig really responsible for sending thousands of young men to their deaths at the Somme? (T) (T) (8765559)
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Bloom, Tamblyn, Harris and Johnson in *The Haunting* (TNT, 9pm)

## FOX KIDS NETWORK

- 6.00pm Inspector Gadget (5299443) 6.30 Inspector Gadget (5472071) 7.30 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (5471919) 8.00 Second Chance (50733) 8.30 UK Top 10 (3375) 10.00 In the Mouth of Madness (T) (8817511) 11.00 The Wizard (T) (8817512) 11.30 The Wizard (T) (8817513) 12.00 The Simpsons (2240) 7.30 MTA'STH (T) (7337) 8.00 JAG (852871) 8.30 The X-Files (T) (851819) 9.00 The Outer Limits (T) (8518191) 10.00 Star Trek: Generations (T) (8518192) 12.30am L.A.P.D. (T0803) 1.00 Hz Me Long Play (1589521)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD
- 8.00pm Giant (277146) 9.30 Special Feature (277147) 10.00 Heartbreak Ridge (1986) (7470028) 12.15am The Pacific in Need of a Hero (1971) 1.00 The Final Countdown (T) (8518193) 1.30 The Final Countdown (T) (8518194) 4.00 2.50 The Final Countdown (T) (8518195) 4.30 The Dragon That Wasn't There (T) (8518196) 5.00 The Wizard (T) (8518197) 5.30 The Wizard (T) (8518198) 6.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (5472058) 6.30 Casper (5450508) 6.45 The Dragon That Wasn't There (T) (8518199) 7.00 The Wizard (T) (8518200) 7.30 The Wizard (T) (8518201) 8.00 Casper (5372059) 8.30 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (5472059) 8.45 The Dragon That Wasn't There (T) (8518202) 9.00 Casper (5372060) 9.30 The Wizard (T) (8518203) 10.00 Casper (5372061) 11.00 Casper (5372062) 11.30 Casper (5372063) 12.00 Casper (5372064) 12.30am Casper (5372065) 1.00 Casper (5372066) 1.30 Casper (5372067) 2.00 Casper (5372068) 2.30 Casper (5372069) 3.00 Casper (5372070) 3.30 Casper (5372071) 4.00 Casper (5372072) 4.30 Casper (5372073) 5.00 Casper (5372074) 5.30 Casper (5372075) 6.00 Casper (5372076) 6.30 Casper (5372077) 7.00 Casper (5372078) 7.30 Casper (5372079) 8.00 Casper (5372080) 8.30 Casper (5372081) 9.00 Casper (5372082) 9.30 Casper (5372083) 10.00 Casper (5372084) 11.00 Casper (5372085) 11.30 Casper (5372086) 12.00 Casper (5372087) 12.30am Casper (5372088) 1.00 Casper

